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Library Journal

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MARCH, 1912

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The Library Journal

Vol. 37. No. 3. MARCH, 1912

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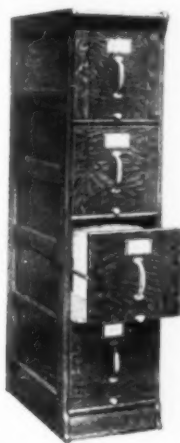
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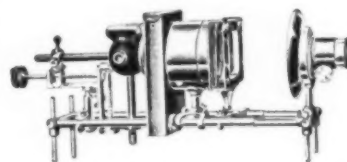
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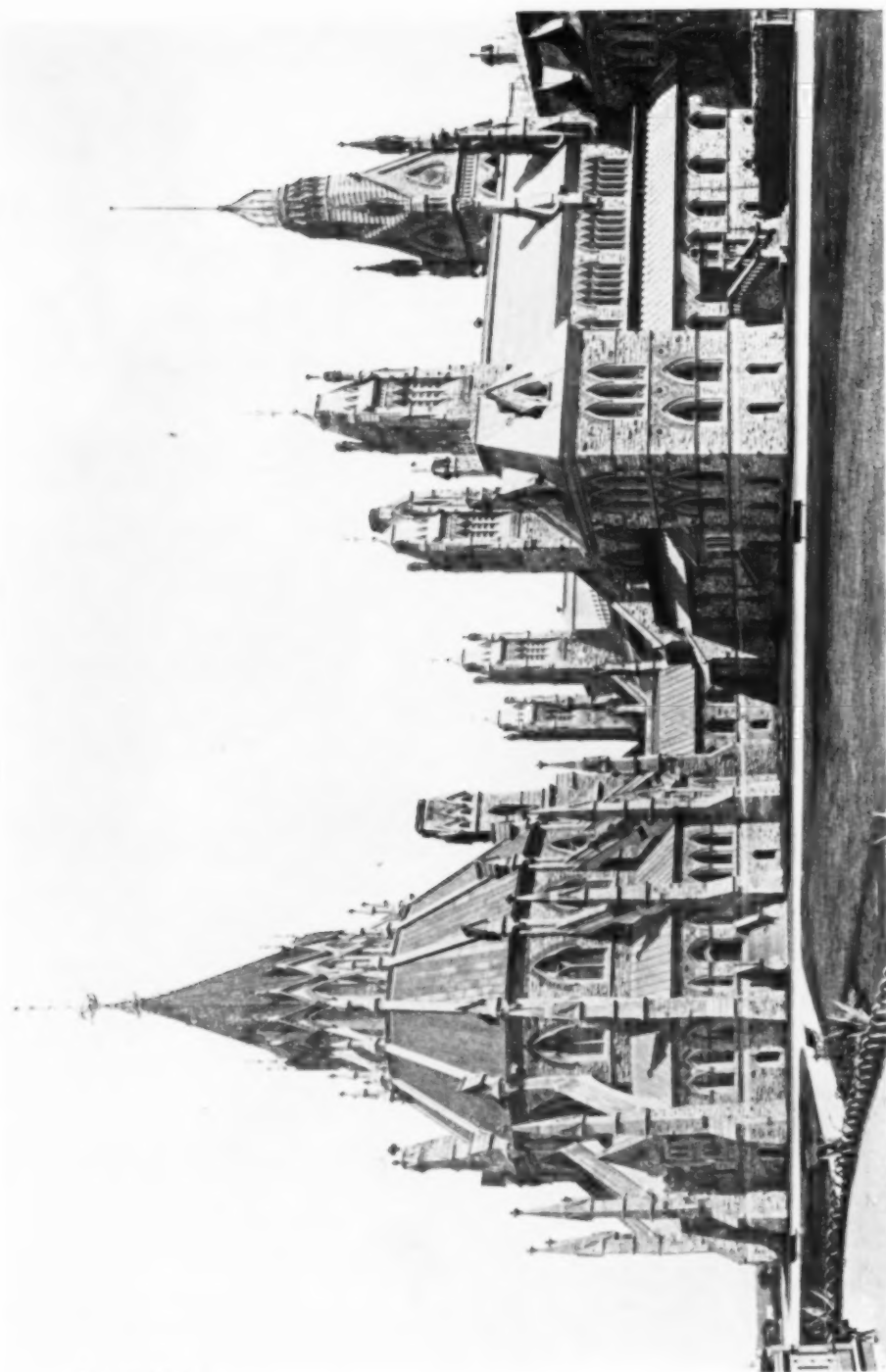
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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

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MARCH, 1912

NO. 3

CANADA, our closest sister in Mother England's family of nations, rightly seeks to emphasize its nationality by developing its Parliamentary Library into a truly national library, as our Library of Congress is in fact though not in name. That Canada is a nation, and no longer a dependency, has been thoroughly acknowledged by the Imperial Crown and Parliament in recent legislation, not least in the new British copyright act, under which the "self-governing dominions" are permitted either to accept Imperial legislation or to legislate with absolute independence. What the United States won at the sad cost of war has been granted by a wiser generation of Englishmen to Canada and the four other self-governing dominions, as it is now to be granted to Ireland; and in each case the wholesome national spirit is showing itself, as evidence in the Canadian movement for a national library. Mr. Burpee's article on this subject is peculiarly timely in view of the coming Ottawa conference which will illustrate happily the sisterly relations of Canada and the United States as represented in the American Library Association. Both the movement for a national library and the general library development throughout Canada should receive impetus from this conference, and every librarian from this side the border who can attend the 1912 conference should make it his duty as well as his pleasure to do so. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Canada, following Australia, has outlined independent copyright legislation, which will come to the front in Parliament late in 1912.

THE article by Mr. Burpee is a second of a series of articles on national libraries planned for the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and will be followed by articles on the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale, and the Royal Library in Berlin, and later on the national libraries of other countries. In this connection the development of library relations and of bibliographical methods in the countries of Latin America is especially noteworthy. An official bibliographical commission has adopted for the National Library in Mexico City the general lines of the American system and the Brussels Institute. Brazil's National Library

at Rio de Janeiro has just purchased from the Brussels Institute duplicates of 600,000 cards for a repertory. In Argentina, Chile and Peru, official bureaus of bibliography have been created. During the coming year special attention to South American libraries will be given by the bulletin of the Pan American Union in a series of articles; and the LIBRARY JOURNAL will also give special consideration to them.

ONE of the most important modern features of a governmental library is what is known as legislative reference work, and in connection with it the drafting of bills. This has reached its highest development and usefulness in the state of Wisconsin, where thousands of dollars and indefinite time have been saved to the state and its legislators by the bureau organized by Mr. McCarthy. Steps in this direction have been taken in Massachusetts, New York and other states, and now the sentiment in favor of making a national bureau for the drafting of bills as a division of the Library of Congress is taking definite shape. The new Nelson bill, the text of which is given elsewhere, is a more carefully drawn substitute for the earlier bill, and represents comparative study and the knowledge of experts. It is the outgrowth indeed of the study given to the subject, the results of which were stated in the last report of the Librarian of Congress, which dealt so fully with this subject. The havoc wrought to systems of legislation and to public and private interests by the passage of hastily drawn and faultily worded measures is almost beyond estimate; and the cost of such a bureau is saved many times over to any government which adopts it. Of course, such a bureau has nothing whatever to do with the matter of bills, but only with their manner. Given an end in view, it is the business of the drafting bureau to see that the bill for this purpose is clearly drawn to accomplish that purpose, is not duplicated by other bills, and is not contrary to existing legislation except so far as amendment is purposed by the bill. Public opinion should be heartily in support of this measure, and the Library of Congress is certainly the best place for a non-partisan bureau of this sort.

THE wrangle in Louisville against the appointment as head cataloger of an experienced person not a resident of Louisville has happily come to an end with the designation of the instructor in cataloging of the Western Reserve Library School, Miss Evans, for that post. A letter, reprinted on another page, from a member of the board, sets forth clearly and forcibly the right point of view in such matters. Naturally library posts for which there are sufficiently equipped local candidates would conveniently be filled by residents; but when the needs are beyond the local supply, as in the case of expert positions, the question of residence should be altogether subordinated. The residence idea is one of the last vestiges of the political handling of libraries under the spoils system, and it is gratifying that in Louisville the right result has been reached, as also that in Frankfort the state librarian has been continued in office for another term by the action of both parties. One point in the latter relation is yet to be gained that the state librarianship should be a permanent office, with no regard whatever to political pros and cons, and so should not need coöperation from both parties.

WITH the admission of Arizona, there are now forty-eight states in the Union, and of these only fifteen are without state library commissions and ten without state library associations, the Oregon and Washington state associations being now merged in the Pacific Northwest Association. Missionary work in the library field should lead to the organization of both commissions and associations in these states, and to the quickening of those which are perfunctory or inactive in the other states. The Massachusetts Library Commission, under the progressive chairmanship of State Librarian Belden and with the energetic helpfulness of Miss Zaidee Brown as State Agent or organizer, is now devoting itself largely to making local libraries in Massachusetts, which has long boasted that it has library facilities for every township, thoroughly active and progressive, by stimulating local clubs for mutual acquaintance, discussion and inspiration. In that state the Berkshire Library Club has now replaced the Southern Berkshire Library Club, taking a portion of the field of the Western Massa-

chusetts Library Club, and new clubs are in process of formation in Essex County and in Plymouth County. An excellent scheme of coöperation between commission, state association and local clubs is formulated in a committee report, printed elsewhere, which should have attention in other states. Incidentally, it would be well if the state organization in Massachusetts should adopt the standard nomenclature by becoming an *association* in relation with local *clubs*; and this is true also in Pennsylvania, where the Pennsylvania Library Club has the function of a state association in the bi-state meeting in Atlantic City, while the Keystone Library Association covers chiefly the western part of the state. Not only in Massachusetts, but in New York, the state library authorities have been usefully stimulating local clubs. Massachusetts, in clubs as well as in town libraries, remains the banner state.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made of the third issue of the United States catalog of books in print, bringing that comprehensive and useful publication up to December 31, 1911. This will cumulate the material published in recent years in the *Cumulative Book Index*, and will reach the enormous proportions of a quarto volume of three thousand three column pages, a volume larger than the new Webster's Dictionary. The cost of bibliography in these days outruns all estimate, and it is found that the price of this volume, to cover expenses, must be \$36, with a special graduated price for small libraries. This cost of bibliographical work has led to a division of the field so that the American Catalog will no longer be published from this office. The *Publishers' Weekly* will continue to be the original source of bibliographical information through its weekly and monthly reference lists, but will give over the cumulative field to the *Cumulative Book Index*, which will be published solely as a cumulation every two months. *Library Work*, issued by the Wilson Company, is discontinued, and its material will be made a feature of the LIBRARY JOURNAL within the present year. These rearrangements are intended to prevent duplication and waste, with a view of giving to libraries and others interested the best results at the lowest practicable rate, toward which both offices will hereafter coöperate.

CANADA'S NATIONAL LIBRARY

By LAWRENCE J. BURPEE, former Librarian of Carnegie Library of Ottawa, Canada

STRICTLY speaking, Canada has no national library. The Library of Parliament in Ottawa is a legislative library, designed to serve the needs of Parliament. It stands to-day just about where the Library of Congress stood some years ago, before the enlightened policy had been adopted of making it in every true sense the national library of the United States.

Fortunately for Canada, a movement is now on foot for the establishment of a national library, either as a separate institution or by broadening the functions of the present library of Parliament. The movement originated about a year ago, in an article in the *University Magazine*, and has since been taken up by such representative Canadian bodies as the Royal Society and the Ontario Library Association. The Royal Society memorialized the Government to create a royal commission, whose duty it would be to make a careful study of the policy and methods of the great national libraries of Europe and America, and submit a comprehensive report to the Government, embodying the recommendations of the commissioners as to the best organization of a national library designed to meet the peculiar needs of the Canadian people. This proposal of the Royal Society was submitted to the late Government shortly before the general elections, but in the pressure of more urgent affairs it was pushed into the background. Now that the new Government is firmly established, the recommendation of the Royal Society will be renewed, and will probably have the support of many other representative bodies, literary, historical and scientific societies, the universities, etc.

There can, of course, be no two opinions as to the desirability and need of a national library in Canada. That the pressure has not come before this for the establishment of such a vitally important factor in the intellectual life of any people, is probably due to the preoccupation of the Canadian people with matters of purely material development. Canadians, however, have not been backward in the establishment, upon broad lines of efficiency, of a system of education extending from the elementary schools to the state

universities, and, now that the need of a national library, as an essential part of their educational system, has been brought home to them, they will not be slow in approving of the establishment of such an institution, and giving it the same generous support that they have afforded to the other educational agencies of the country.

It is perhaps premature to attempt at present to suggest any of the details of organization, but it may not be out of place to reproduce here a paragraph from the article in the *University Magazine* of February, 1911:

"There is always difficulty in breaking ground for a new project, however worthy and however real the need that it would fill. There exist, however, certain circumstances which, assuming a sympathetic attitude on the part of the government, might serve as a foundation. It is well known that for years past the Library of Parliament has been so crowded for space, books being shelved two and even three deep, that its usefulness has been seriously affected. The architectural plan of the present building makes it practically impossible to add to the shelving within the chamber, and absolutely impossible to enlarge the building itself. It is thought necessary, therefore, either to find room elsewhere for the books crowded out of the present chamber, or to build a new library. These are the alternatives that have hitherto presented themselves. But there is a third alternative. Let the government adopt the policy of a national library; erect a suitable building for its accommodation in some central locality; and remove from the Library of Parliament to the national library all books and other material that would properly find a place in such an institution, but which serve no very useful purpose in a purely legislative library. Of the books at present crowded into the Library of Parliament, probably two-thirds could be removed to a national library without affecting the value of the collection for legislative purposes. This would leave, say, one hundred thousand volumes in the Library of Parliament, embracing all material which would have any definite value as legislative material.

Any other work that might occasionally be required for parliamentary use would still be readily accessible in the national library. Here, then, we would have some two hundred thousand volumes as the nucleus of a Canadian national library, a nucleus around which it would be possible in a few years to build a noble collection of books."

In view both of the movement for a national library in Canada, and the approaching meeting of the American Library Association at Ottawa, it may be of interest to give a brief sketch of the history of the Library of Parliament. Although the first public library of Canada was established in the city of Quebec in 1779, largely through the enthusiasm of the governor-general, Sir Frederick Haldimand, the birth of a legislative library in Canada did not take place until twelve years later. Legislative libraries were established almost simultaneously, in Lower Canada, now the Province of Quebec, and in Upper Canada, now the Province of Ontario, about the beginning of the last decade of the eighteenth century. The first librarian of the legislative library of Lower Canada was Samuel Philipp, who was also clerk of the legislature. One of his successors, Etienne Parent, filled the triple offices of Law Officer of the Crown, French Translator of the Legislature, and Librarian, all for the princely remuneration of \$800 per annum. The legislative library of Upper Canada owed its existence to the interest of John Graves Simcoe, first governor of the infant province. This library was established at the town of York, now Toronto, and was destroyed when the little capital of the province was burned during the war of 1812.

The library of Parliament really, however, dates from the union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, when provision was made for a parliamentary library for the united province. The library suffered many vicissitudes. For some years the capital of the province was constantly changing, and the library was carted about with other impedimenta, from Kingston to Montreal, then to Quebec, then to Toronto, from Toronto back to Quebec, and finally to Ottawa. The unfortunate institution was also the victim of three fires, two in Quebec and one in Montreal. The Quebec fires were accidental; but in Montreal the books were destroyed by a mob, which could find no more satisfactory way of expressing

its disapproval of the Rebellion Losses Bill than by burning the House of Parliament and the library.

With the establishment of the seat of government in Ottawa, the Library of Parliament finally found a permanent resting-place in the beautiful octagon building on Parliament Hill. No doubt the men who planned this building never dreamed that a time would come when the little collection of books would overtax the utmost capacity of the library.

For years past, however, it has become increasingly difficult to make any effective use of the Library of Parliament, owing to the crowded condition of the shelves, and the practical impossibility of adding to the capacity of the chamber without utterly destroying its beauty.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and out of the impossible situation into which the Library of Parliament has been driven, may be drawn a conclusive argument in favor of the establishment of a great Canadian national library, in a building designed upon equally beautiful but more practical lines.

The library is a polygon of 16 sides and is 120 feet in diameter. The dome is supported by massive and beautifully constructed flying buttresses. In the interior the height from the floor to the top of the inside of the cupola is 160 feet. The floor is inlaid with Canadian woods, and the book-shelves are richly carved in Canadian white pine. In the center is a white marble statue of Queen Victoria, by Marshall Wood, the English sculptor. The building was completed in 1876. At the time the government removed to Ottawa the library contained 55,000 volumes; there are now 350,000, and the accommodation is entirely inadequate. The collection of books and pamphlets relating to Canada is very complete. When Parliament is not sitting books may be obtained under certain restrictions. During session the library is open continuously, at other times, on week days, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The General Librarian of Parliament is A. D. DeCelles; the Parliamentary Librarian, M. J. Griffin; the Assistant Librarian, L. P. Sylvain. The staff is small. The annual appropriation is \$54,200, of which \$15,000 is for books, including \$1000 for Americana.

SOME REFERENCE BOOKS OF 1911

BY ISADORE GILBERT MUDGE, *Columbia University Library*

THE following list of reference books of the year is not a complete record of all such publications issued in 1911, but merely a selection of some of the more important or interesting among these.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

The most important new reference book, not only in this class, but in the whole field, has been the much heralded eleventh edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica," the publication of which was begun toward the end of 1910 and completed by midsummer, 1911. The special features of the new Britannica—practically simultaneous publication of the whole alphabet, arrangement by small subjects instead of large, and a greater emphasis than in earlier editions on American subjects—have been noted too often to need comment here. A year's use of the work has brought to light some defects, among which may be mentioned a distinct unevenness in the value of the bibliographies and an occasional failure to bring up to date bibliographies, accompanying articles revised or adopted from the ninth edition. From the point of view of ready reference, the greatest defect of the work is undoubtedly the omission of the "see" references ("see also" references are included) from the main alphabet and their insertion in the index volume only. The English and American editions, while nominally identical, show certain differences. The typography and proof-reading of the English edition are better and the illustrations also are much better and clearer than in the American edition. The American edition, on the other hand, gives the figures of the 13th Census for practically all American cities included, whereas these are given in the English edition for the largest cities only, the figures given here for the smaller places being still those of the 12th Census. Valuable as the work is proving it is by no means superseding the "New international," the convenient arrangement and admirable bibliographies of which keep it well to the front. Other encyclopedias published during the year have been: a reissue of the "Americana" in 20 volumes, enlarged but not revised, with two supple-

mentary volumes (N. Y., Scientific American, \$8 ea.), and a revised and enlarged edition of Champlin's "Young folks cyclopedia of persons and places" (N. Y., Holt, \$3).

Dictionaries of the year have included: a reissue in 12 volumes, including the names and atlas volumes of the "Century dictionary and cyclopedia" (N. Y., Century Co., \$75); a reissue of "Webster's new international dictionary," which differs from the revised edition of 1909 only in the addition of an historical appendix; and the "Concise Oxford dictionary," an entirely new work. The reissue of the "Century" consists of the material of the 10-volume edition spread through two additional volumes, with the corresponding part of the alphabet from the two new volumes of 1909 bound in at the back of each volume of the dictionary proper. Some new material has been added especially to the "Cyclopedia of names," which is much enlarged, some new colored plates and various historical and genealogical tables have been supplied, and the atlas volume, revised by the new census returns, but the reissue cannot be called a revision. The "Concise Oxford dictionary" (Oxford University Press, \$1), which, although based upon the materials collected for the "Oxford English dictionary," is a new work, not a condensation of the larger work, furnishes us with a convenient and satisfactory desk dictionary.

INDEXES

The announcement that a division of the work of indexing periodicals and general literature had been agreed upon by the *Publishers' Weekly* office and the H. W. Wilson Company was made during 1911, but the changes contemplated go into effect with the publications of 1912 and so hardly fall within the scope of this chronicle. The most important single index published in 1911 was "Richardson's periodical articles on religion, 1890-99; author index" (Scribner, \$10), which presents the author side of the same material included in his subject index, published 1907. "Nijhoff's index op de Nederlandsche periodieken" (monthly, The Hague, Nijhoff f 1.50 a yr.), which was begun in 1910, is now in its second volume and should be useful in

libraries having calls for Dutch periodicals. An index of a different type, but no less useful, is the "Index of debate topics," published by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg. A new edition, the 4th, of Pitman's "Where to look," has also appeared.

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

"Eisler, Rudolf, Philosophen-lexikon; leben, werke und lehren der denker," issued in 1911, but with the imprint date 1912, is a dictionary of the bio-bibliography type, forming a companion volume to the author's "Wörterbuch der philosophischen begriffe" (ed. 3, Berlin, Mittler, 3 v.). In the subject of religion the most important items to note are the various new volumes of the six important religious encyclopedias now in process of publication in America, France and Germany, of "Hastings' encyclopedia of religions," volumes 3-4, have been issued (Scribner, \$7 ea.). "The Catholic encyclopedia" has added volumes 10-12, Mass-Reval (N. Y., R. Appleton, \$6 ea.), while the "New Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia of religious knowledge" is almost completed, volumes 9-11, Petri-Tremellius being now in print (Funk, \$5 ea.). Of the two important French sets, "Cabrol's dictionnaire de l'archéologie chrétienne" has advanced as far as fasc. 25, and the "Dictionnaire de théologie catholique," by Vacant and Mangenot, has reached fasc. 34. Of the "Encyclopedia of Islam," parts 8-10 have appeared, finishing the letter A (Lond., Luzac, 3s. 6d. ea.; edition in French, Paris, Picard, fr. 4.50 ea.; edition in German, Lpz., Harrassowitz, m. 3.50 ea.). The work maintains its high character for thorough scholarship and is evidently outgrowing the original plans, which were to complete the whole alphabet in 45 parts. Single works of value are: Mirbt, D. C., "Quellen zur geschichte des Papsttums und des Römischen Katholizismus," 3. verb. u. verm. aufl. (Tübingen, Mohr), a new edition of the standard source bibliography of the history of Catholicism; Bumpus, J. S. "Dictionary of ecclesiastical terms... used in architecture, ecclesiology, liturgiology, music, ritual, &c." (London, Laurie, 12s.), a useful handbook for the general reader, not the specialist; and the "World atlas of foreign missions" (N. Y., Student Volunteer Movement, \$4), a serviceable work for statistics of missions, maps showing location of foreign mission stations, etc.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The third edition of Conrad's "Handwörterbuch der staatswissenschaften" has been completed by the publication of vols. 7-8 (Jena, Fischer, m. 23. ea.), and the third edition of the complementary work by Elster, "Wörterbuch der volkswirtschaft" is now appearing (Jena, Fischer, 1910-11). An American edition of the invaluable "Bibliographie der Sozialwissenschaften," issued by the Bibliographischer Zentral-Verlag, Berlin, has been published since January, 1911, by the University of Chicago Press, with the title "Bibliography of sociology." This appears monthly and has absorbed the work of indexing carried on heretofore by the *Journal of Political Economy*. A valuable reference book for statistics is Webb, A. D., "New dictionary of statistics" (Lond., Routledge, 21s.; N. Y., Dutton, \$7), a continuation of the fourth edition (1899) of "Mulhall's dictionary," which follows the general plan of Mulhall, but is more useful because of its bibliographical references. Two new yearbooks of value are the "American year book, 1910" (Appleton, \$5), which contains excellent authoritative summaries of the year's activities along certain lines, and the "Russian year book" (Lond., Eyre & Spottiswoode). An important addition to the list of indexes of laws is the "Index analysis of the federal statutes, 1789-1873," by M. G. Beaman and A. K. McNamara (Wash. Govt. Pr. Off.). This follows the same general plan as the "Index analysis... 1873-1907," published in 1908, to which the new index forms a preliminary volume.

In the subject of education there have been several new reference books, the most important of which, for American libraries, is "Monroe's cyclopedia of education" (Macmillan, vols. 1-2, A-Fus, \$5 ea.), a work which aims at completeness of scope if not of treatment, and gives us the first adequate encyclopedia of the subject in English. An English work on different lines is Laurie's "Teacher's encyclopedia of the theory method, practice history and development of education" (Lond., Caxton, vols. 1-3; to be compl. in 7 vols.), which is a collection of monographs on important phases of the subject, not an alphabetical dictionary. Buisson, F. E., "Nouveau dictionnaire de pédagogie et d'instruction primaire" (Hachette, 2087 p., 40 fr.), is a new edition, revised and much con-

densed of the author's 4-volume work published 1882. A new annual which may prove to be of value is "Annals of educational progress, 1910, a report on current educational activities throughout the world" (Lippincott, \$3).

SCIENCE AND USEFUL ARTS

An important new botanical dictionary is the "Dictionary of plant names," by H. L. Gerth van Wijk, published by the Dutch Society of Sciences (The Hague, Nijhoff). A new edition of a useful science directory is the "Zoologisches adressbuch, namen und adressen der lebenden zoologen, anatomen, physiologen und zoopalaeontologen," 2 vols., neu bearb. ausg. (Berlin, Friedlander).

Hobart, H. M. "Dictionary of electrical engineering," 2 vols. (Lond., Gresham, 35s.; Phila., Lipp., \$10). is a careful work with signed articles and good illustrations. A new edition of "Thorpe's dictionary of applied chemistry" is in preparation and the first volume is already out. The "Scientific American cyclopedia of formulas," by A. A. Hopkins (Munn, \$5), is partly a new work, partly a new edition of the much used "Scientific American cyclopedia of receipts," thoroughly worked over, with only about one-third of the old material retained. A new pocket book of value is the "American civil engineer's pocket book," ed. by Mansfield Merriman (Wiley, \$5), a useful book which does not, however, supersede Trautwine. For terms and definitions of a new subject the small "Dictionary of aviation," by Pierce, is useful, though by no means complete or final.

FINE ARTS

Bénézit, E. "Dictionnaire critique et documentaire des peintres, sculpteurs, dissinateurs et graveurs de tous les temps et de tous les pays" (Paris, Roget, fr. 75) is comprehensive in scope, careful in treatment, and promises to be useful. It is to be completed in three volumes, but only the first is yet issued. "Baltzell's biographical dictionary of musicians" (Bost., Ditson, \$1.25) is a handy small dictionary, containing short sketches and including a number of names, especially American, which were omitted from other dictionaries. Two small books, useful for opera plots, are the new edition of Melitz, "Operagoers' complete guide," with a supplement which gives the plots of 18 operas, not in-

cluded in the edition of 1909, and McSpadden's "Opera synopses" (Crowell, 75c.). The new edition of the "Encyclopedia of sport" (Lond., Heinemann, 56s.; Phila., Lippincott) has been completed in 4 large volumes, which contain much new material.

LITERATURE

Most of the new reference books in literature are either dictionaries or concordances of the works of a special author. Of these the one which is easily the most important is Professor Lane Cooper's "Concordance to the poems of William Wordsworth" (Lond., Smith & Elder, 40s.; N. Y., Dutton, \$12.50), a monumental work, comparable only to Bartlett's "Shakespeare concordance." Jaggard's "Shakespeare bibliography, a dictionary of every known issue of the writings," lists many more titles than are brought together in any other one place and indicates some of the libraries in which these may be found. A Shakespeare reference book of a different type is Guerber, H. A., "Stories of Shakespeare's tragedies" (Dodd, \$1.25), a companion volume to the "Comedies," published in 1910. Two new titles have been added to the Routledge series of author dictionaries: "A Kipling dictionary," by W. A. Young, and "A Hardy dictionary," by F. O. Saxelby (Lond., Routledge, 8s. 6d. ea.; N. Y., Dutton, \$3 ea.). Nield's useful "Guide to the best historical novels" has been published in a 4th edition, revised and extended by the addition of a large supplement (Lond., Mathews, 8s.; Putnam, \$3).

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Several new or revised biographical dictionaries have been published during the year. Of the revisions, the most important, perhaps, is the new edition, abridged, of Smith's "Dictionary of Christian biography," edited by H. Wace and W. C. Piercy (Bost., Little, \$8). While this is too much condensed to supersede the earlier edition in 4 volumes, it will be more useful than the old edition in cases where recent or concise information is wanted. A 5th edition of "Wer ist's," the first since 1908, has appeared; also a 5th biennial edition of "Who's who in New York." Two new additions to the "Who's who" class are: "The American Catholic who's who" (St. Louis, Herder, \$3), modeled on the English "Catholic who's who," but less concise and

less well edited, and "Who's who in finance, a biographical dictionary of contemporary bankers, capitalists and others engaged in financial activities in the U. S. and Canada" (N. Y., Selfton, \$7.50). As a preliminary step to the new supplement of the "Dictionary of national biography" now in preparation, a list of the names to be included was printed in the *Athenæum* for January and February, 1911. This list gives full names, dates and a characterizing word or words and may be made to serve as a very brief supplement to the D. N. B. Of the historical reference books of the year one of the most important is the admirable and scholarly "Historical atlas," by W. R. Shepherd (Holt, \$2.50).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The 1911 publications in this class are noteworthy because of the unusual number of cumulated volumes of trade bibliography.

Among these are: "American catalog, 1908-10" (*Publishers' Weekly*, \$10); "English catalogue," v. 8, 1906-10 (*Publ. circular*, 4s. 14s. 6d.); "Bibliographie française, 2e série, v. 2, pts. 1-2, 1905-1909" (Le Soudier, 85 fr.). The subject index of the Italian "Catalogo generale" has advanced about half-way through the alphabet and the first number of a supplementary author list for the years 1899-1910 has been issued. A contribution to a part of the field of national bibliography not hitherto covered is Foxcroft's "Australian catalogue, a reference index to the books and periodicals published and still current in the commonwealth of Australia" (Melbourne, Whitcombe & Tombs, 10s.). A valuable addition to the collection of library catalogs is the "British Museum subject index of modern books added, 1906-1910" (Frowde, 40s.).

DEVELOPING A PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY MARY ELIZABETH DOWNEY, *Library Organizer of Ohio*

BIOGRAPHY is one of the most fascinating forms of literature, whether it be the life story of some real person, an imaginative history told in a novel or the beginning, the development and the end of some enterprise in which one is interested. The librarian, therefore, needs no excuse for endeavoring to sketch the history of a library from infancy to maturity.

The thought of starting a library enters some busy brain and is soon passed on to a few spirits interested in raising the standard of knowledge a little higher in the community. So the new library comes into being—in the olden time through membership subscription, following the Franklin idea; in later days often free from the beginning by means of the tax levy. Books to the number of a thousand or two are given as a nucleus—books not so bad, either, for if they have no other value than to show the good will of the donors, they serve a most excellent purpose. Old magazines, too, are offered by the attic-full and frequently furnishings are given, which, though not new, answer the purpose. Organization takes place in the form of an association, athenæum, lyceum, woman's club or by the appointment of a board of trustees. A

room is rented, or procured, by some kind of benevolence or institution furnishing it free. Shelving of some sort is provided and the books brought in. Like the home of the primitive family, this one room, or possibly two, provides for all departments of the work—circulation, children's room, reference and reading-room. A librarian is appointed to serve a few hours two or three afternoons a week, at a salary too meager to mention, but which looks very large to those laboring through entertainment, lecture course or subscription, or looking a year or more ahead till the tax levy accrues.

Every locality having a library has its own story, and each one is as interesting as a romance. What service does this small beginning render to the community? Everyone feels a personal pride in the new undertaking, while it does its share in helping to build up civic unity. The standard of reading begins to be raised even though the change be almost imperceptible. Parents see the advantage of their children having better general reading opportunities than they themselves had, and all soon begin to wonder how they ever got along without the library. As a place to attract boys and girls from the street

and to give the transient visitor an alternative to the saloon or gambling-room, it has due consideration. Those who really pay the tax are usually the most willing to provide for the general good, while those managing the library are given something to think of besides their own personal interests, which acts as a leaven to the whole community. The librarian cannot render all service needed, so others lend a philanthropic hand and are thus given an appreciation of the work of the library. The intellectual and social affairs given for the benefit of the library tend also to the good of the community; but the library is fortunate if it may be tax-supported from the beginning, for this assures its continuance. Everyone recognizes that the tax should be provided in the earliest possible stage of development, as only one library in many depending on intermittent enthusiasm and gifts has permanence.

Often neither the librarian nor any of those interested know anything of the technical work of the library, so things are much jumbled. But a beginning has been made, and one must remember that "Rome was not built in a day." Finally, help is given by someone of training or experience from a neighboring library, or by some member of the library commission, in our progressive states. First the room is made as attractive as gifts and kind hands can accomplish, for even one room may assume the budding stage of the various departments, providing for circulation, reading, reference, and work with children. Pockets and cards are put in the books, which are accessioned, classified, labeled and by and by cataloged.

So the library takes on new life and added vigor. If the tax has not been provided, it is now done; and the question of a building adequate for the work is agitated. Someone who realizes the value of a wider diffusion of knowledge comes forward with his wealth to provide a building. In these later years Mr. Carnegie makes provision on a scale greater than ever before designed by the mind of man. He seldom refuses a building to any town that furnishes the site and assures permanent support through tax levy. He says, "I will help you if, as an earnest of your purpose, you will guarantee that the enterprise shall be permanently supported as a part of your system of local government."

The matter of building now occupies the minds of the board. Central location is of primary importance, for they know that to have it well patronized the library must be placed in the most frequented part of town. Architects submit plans which are carefully studied, for the best possible value must be returned from the funds available. General utility must not be sacrificed to architectural effect. Still it is understood that a library should be delightful to the eye as well as convenient for use. So every effort is made to have it attractive and homelike. When the building is completed its dedication is an all-important event, bringing people to realize more fully than ever what the library is to mean in the life of the community.

Order, system and cleanliness are among the most important essentials in library work. So the staff in charge shows its care and interest each day by the neatness everywhere apparent, which preserves an air of freshness to the building. It is the constant aim to keep the library in such condition that the city may be proud not only of its resources but also of its beauty.

The librarian does not consider her duty done, nor is she satisfied only with the people who come to the library, without persuasion or effort on her part. She circulates herself as well as her books, carrying out the admonition of Sam Walter Foss, "Nearly every librarian ought to double the circulation of his books and treble the circulation of himself." So commercial houses, clubs, churches and schools are visited, with the object of bringing their people to the library. Children are reached with cards through the schools, adults by registration through factories and business houses, and finally an opportunity is offered to everyone in the town directory, not already registered, by sending cards to them through the mail. This method is found to be a good advertising medium, as it sets everybody talking about the library, and revives its use among those who are backsliders.

Along with making the library known to all the people, books are put within their reach as far as the limitations of material and time of the staff will permit. The circulation should grow in proportion to the book supply. Statistics cannot show what the library is doing to raise the standard of social and intellectual life in the community, nor can they

show the actual use of the library. Many books are used, of which no account can be kept, and the greater number of books circulated are used by more than the one person taking them. Consequently the figures as to circulation cannot adequately show what the library is doing. However, large circulation is not the primary object, but rather the increasing of efficiency for those already using the library. To lead people unconsciously to better books is the aim of the librarian, so a few choice volumes are kept in a conspicuous place as a bait to the larger collection. Magazines are provided for circulation as well as for reference, while fiction is so arranged as to attract readers to classed books.

In purchasing books attention is given to special interests, as clubs, school reference, study classes of various organizations, and the mechanical needs of working men and women. Every book called for and not in the library is carefully considered, as well as those dealing with subjects of current interest. Sets of standard authors in attractive bindings are gradually added, while periodical files are completed for reference, and duplicate magazines are bound for circulation to be used as stepping stones between fiction and classed reading. Several copies of the best works of fiction are bought rather than many titles of little worth, while every effort is made to keep the library well balanced in classed books and to build up a reference collection. Children's books being most important have their fair proportion.

The binding and repair in a growing library require much thought and care. Shelves are kept free from dilapidated books, the mending being done whenever possible, by having someone from the bindery come to the library to do it, thus giving skilled help and often at a less cost than to use the more valuable time of the library staff.

The catalog, supplying the key to unlock the contents of the library, receives careful, systematic attention, progressing as fast as time will permit. Library of Congress cards are used as far as they can be supplied, helping accomplish the work much faster than it can be done otherwise. The staff notes with pleasure the growing use of the catalog, as patrons learn its value, which is one of the most gratifying signs of the more scholarly appreciation of the library.

The reference collection begins often with no more than an out-of-date dictionary and atlas, or encyclopedia, passes through the time of buying books most needed, and grows gradually till it finally covers the whole field of literature and serves the special lines of study in school work, clubs and various organizations. Files of useful periodicals are completed, for every growing library recognizes that the same amount of money cannot be better spent for reference than in putting magazines in shape for service, while the indexes are kept up to date, giving ready access to any article appearing in the standard publications. To collect and preserve the local newspapers is regarded as an important function, as future writers will be searching these records for the history of the town. Important sets of government documents are completed, which, for purposes of reference, are very valuable. Articles on various subjects are clipped from newspapers and stray magazines, classified and filed in envelopes, and as this collection grows it provides a large part of the reference service. In constantly meeting requests from the public one becomes very skillful in knowing what to preserve. Staff members like the work which has a peculiar instructive element, for while the articles are not read, a great deal of general knowledge is absorbed from giving the same attention to subject headings that one does in classifying books. So it serves to make the staff observant and alert. The clipping habit is very contagious and appeals to everyone. Pictures obtained as gifts from household collections and from the careful preservation of illustrated covers of magazines that go to the bindery, may be used in the same way. When arranged by artist and subject they are found most useful to art clubs and schools. The schools are chiefly interested in those relating to holidays, historic events, eminent men and women, scenery and nature study; while study clubs want those by special artists. So the department grows richer and gains in popularity year by year. All topics requiring special research for clubs, schools and the various organizations have most careful attention. As far as possible the library furnishes the various clubs and classes such books as are needed to carry out their programs. Women's clubs are often assisted in making out programs, which are kept on file

in order to have material ready when needed, and to assist other clubs in making programs on similar subjects in the future. Lists made for clubs and classes studying special subjects, showing all the material in the library on these subjects, are valuable and are greatly appreciated. Frequently all the material the library contains on a given subject is looked up, marked and placed apart on the shelves for the special use of a club or class. People learn more and more the value of reference books, and the willingness of the staff to serve them. The increasing attendance shows that they appreciate not only the books but also the special assistance rendered. It is indeed gratifying to see the delight of those helped in reference work for the first time and to have them return again and again.

As the library grows older less time is required for organization and there is more and more opportunity to develop its usefulness and emphasize its scholarly side. As the reference resources grow more adequate their service should increase correspondingly; so aside from helping people individually to a better understanding of how to use the library by means of the technical helps, systematic instruction is given to classes of high school students, teachers and club women. Copies of the divisions of the classification are made and distributed. Explanation of the classification, arrangement of books on the shelves, catalogs and periodical indexes is followed by problems in finding books by means of the card catalog, and articles on given subjects from the periodical indexes. This work brings about an increased use of reference helps which makes it a pleasure to see people in large numbers approach them with greater confidence and sense of ownership, and to hear the expressions of appreciation of the simplicity of that which, to the uninitiated, seemed as difficult as the working out of a Chinese puzzle.

The constantly increasing reference use of the library by people from public schools, colleges and clubs of neighboring towns is gladly noted. Aside from visiting the library for the purpose of study, much reference material goes out to them by mail, and is returned in the same way. The clippings and magazines, bound a few numbers together, are specially adapted to mailing purposes.

The reading-room opens with belated gifts

passed on from the reading-table of patrons who can afford them, or with a few subscriptions which must make up in care of selection for what they lack in extent of choice, and broadens in influence as funds are increased to make possible a large assortment of the many fine magazines with which we are all familiar. The attendance at the reading-tables shows steady increase in the number using them, and one needs only to see the eager manner in which the periodicals are sought to realize how keenly they are enjoyed. The selection is made to cover as broad a range as possible, so that everyone will find something of interest.

The work with children is a continual source of gratification, developing as fast as means of serving them will allow. At first there is only a shelf or two of children's books. Then comes a table or corner devoted to their interests, and finally a room equipped with furniture, books and periodicals specially suited to their needs, and which they feel belongs wholly to them. No part of the library is enjoyed more fully by its users, or affords greater pleasure to those in charge. The story hour becomes a most attractive feature. The bulletin board is in constant use for each month's attractions. For example, January brings forth McKinley and Franklin; February honors St. Valentine's Day, Lincoln, Washington and Longfellow; March presents the birds, and April the trees; May gives May Day, and June Flag Day; July celebrates the glorious Fourth; August revels in sea views; September brings in school days; October comes with autumn, the Discovery of America and Hallow E'en; November brings Thanksgiving with its Pilgrim stories, and December crowns the Christmas season with pictures of the Christ child and Madonna. Aside from special bulletins, pictures calling attention to noted occasions are put on the board at the proper date. The object of the bulletin is not only to entertain but also to draw attention to interesting subjects concerning which knowledge is to be found in books placed convenient for use. Reading lists and books always accompany the bulletins. Sometimes every book on the subject placed near the bulletin is drawn into circulation. At Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas every bit of available material the library affords—books, clippings and pictures

—is in demand by the schools. All the children's books are cataloged with very simple headings, enabling a child to find all the material in his department on any subject in which he may be interested. To the periodicals on the tables are added puzzle maps and pictures, representing parts of the country, animals, birds, circuses and fire departments. Stereoscopes, with views illustrating travel, history and industries all over the world are very popular, not only with the children but also with older people. Aside from being entertaining they are highly instructive, calling silent attention to books on various subjects illustrated. A different set of pictures put on the tables each week offers an attraction which draws like a magnet. Pictures that children like adorn the walls, while plants and cut flowers, and a bowl of goldfish add to the general appearance of the room.

As the administration grows in knowledge, wisdom and numbers, and books increase, the service is carried to the schools. Those farthest from the library building are the first considered. The registration of teachers and children through the schools takes place, and this advertises the library in the homes. The library staff and the teachers work together to give the children books suited to the grade by bringing as many such books to each room as there are children, and changing them as often as needed. Books taken home by the children are frequently read by the parents and older members, thus bringing whole families in touch with the child's book, and the boy or girl comes back telling the teacher: "I read the book and then my pa he read it and said it was just as good a book for him as it was for me." By this means genius is often discovered and some boy finds his way to the library to seek everything on electricity, wireless telegraphy or some kindred subject that his little brain can comprehend, while teacher and librarian are willing to ferret out every possible bit of material to interest the busy little man. The librarian also visits the schools, making talks here and there. No sooner does she return to the library than she discovers herself followed by teachers and children, some of whom never have been there before. While on the Saturday following mothers come from the outlying districts, followed by troops of children, because they had no peace since the librarian was at the school, till they promised to bring the children to

the library. So the mother, teacher and librarian each has her part in reaching the child mind.

In the first years little work outside the building can be considered, but gradually every possible means is taken to bring people to the library. The idea of mediæval times to preserve and pile up large collections of books has no place in this growing library having the "each for all" spirit, striving to reach every class of people and to use every bit of available material. So the library finds it better to have a few well-used books than many which simply stand on the shelves, because the people to whom they belong do not know that they are theirs. The keynote of the library is to scatter the books—place them where they will be used. The main library reaches the same people over and over again, but they live near the library and are limited in number in comparison with those that should be reached throughout the whole town and even beyond the city limits in the surrounding country. The ideal public library extends its influence throughout the length and breadth of the town, the goal being to have books in every institution, factory and business establishment where any number of people gather for work, thus bringing library privileges to those who otherwise would not be inclined to avail themselves of them, and proving a benefit to the whole community. Developing readers among those who most need the influence of good books, but who are unable to obtain them, fulfils the highest purpose sought by any free library. Another great advantage in this extension work is the opportunity given for reading-room privileges, especially at the noon hour. Many who never take books home employ every spare moment reading at noontime. Often on being asked for the monthly circulation the one in charge of the library will say "There are many who read but do not take books home." The great object is accomplished even though it cannot be fully shown in statistics. Interesting the working people also increases the use of the reading-room at the main library, both at noon and supper hours. When adding to the periodical collection as well as in buying books consideration is given to those suited to the technical needs of the workman. Some children's books are put in all extension collections, as they are more appreciated often than adult books.

Much of the success of a library, as of other organizations, depends on advertising; and this is best done not only "by our loving friends" but also through the newspapers. A daily advertisement is printed for the library, just as for business firms and helps to attract strangers and people not accustomed to use the library. Reporters keep in close touch with the library for notices of new accessions, lists on special subjects and reports of the work. These items and lists are of great service to patrons who often refer to them and bring them to the library for reference.

As the library develops it is gratifying to see its value growing in the estimation of the people, as its beneficent influences are more and more felt and appreciated. The tireless efforts, enthusiasm and helpfulness of the staff meet an unequalled responsiveness on the part of the people. All attempts at progress meet the kindest spirit, and from every side comes effective cooperation in furthering the development of the library. On the other hand, a growing, well-managed library nurtures and develops influences in the community which are not possible without good facilities of administration and equipment.

Those interested aim to have its growth compare favorably with that of any other in towns of similar size. Such a library will continue to be a source of increasing pride to the people who constantly make use of its resources, will become in very truth the people's university, and be one of the most important parts of the educational system of the town, supplementing the public school and giving its citizens an opportunity to become acquainted with the leading and greatest thought on all subjects, thus making it possible to extend their education indefinitely. So a beautiful building, neatly and carefully kept, a progressive library board cooperating in all that tends toward the interest of the library, a faithful, enthusiastic staff, eager and willing to be of service, a kind public, graciously approving and accepting all efforts, all contribute in making library machinery run smoothly; while evidence of appreciation, coming not only from regular patrons but also from newcomers, from the regrets of those leaving the city and from strangers occasionally visiting the library, lend encouragement and promise of still greater achievement.

METHODS OF BOOK REVIEWING

By WILLIAM H. GLASSON, *Editor of South Atlantic Quarterly*

IN these days when the number of books published has multiplied amazingly, when advertising has become artful and clamorous, it is increasingly difficult for the individual to select the limited number of books which it is possible for him to read. Hence it is obvious that good book reviewing is of growing importance as an aid to judicious selection.

It has been said that the late Lord Acton, a distinguished scholar, read on the average a book a day. Some time ago the *Independent* pointed out that, if one could reach that rate, he would make a very slight impression on the 135,000 or 140,000 books published every year throughout the civilized world. But suppose one should confine himself to the English language, and out of the books printed in the English language consider only those printed in the United States, there would be 8000 or more books a year to read. The task of an American would, however, not be so

severe as that of a German who would have to read three times as many to cover the books published in his country. To read the multitude of books published is then a hopeless task. The function of the book review is to aid us in deciding intelligently which books of the confusing multitude we shall read.

For the library committee and the librarian good book reviews are of the utmost service. Only the very great libraries can acquire all the valuable new books, excluding the trashy and worthless from consideration. The small library with limited funds must exercise a wise discretion in buying those books to the extent of its resources which will on the whole be of greatest benefit to its readers. The book reviews in the best literary journals are the most available guides. Hence it is well worth the librarian's while to consider the merits of different types of reviewing.

Of course, book reviewing at a low level is simply a form of advertising; at its best it becomes much more than advertising—it

Read before the North Carolina Library Association, Nov. 23, 1911.

rises to the dignity of literary criticism. I can qualify neither as a publicity agent for publishers nor as an expert literary critic. I approach the subject rather as an editor who has observed in his experience several different types of book reviews. I wish to describe briefly some of these types of book reviews and to indicate their usefulness.

I suppose that the first and most obvious direction that might be given to one about to write a book review is, "Read the book." I have no doubt that a large proportion of published book reviews are written by persons who have not wholly read the books which they review. Sometimes a book is too dull and the weary reviewer passes a disgusted verdict before he reaches the end. I am reminded on this score of dullness of the New York *Sun's* five-word review of a certain biography published a few years ago by a distinguished university professor. After the usual heading giving the publisher's name, the number of volumes, the pages, etc., the review was in the following words: "This work weighs four pounds."

A large proportion of book notices and reviews in daily newspapers are of slight value because they are written by non-readers. Often the publisher's advertising circular is used or worked over by a hurried editor, who has hardly glanced through the book. There is no discriminating and critical estimate of the work. The only value of such a notice is to call attention to the publication of a book on the subject concerned. On the other hand, some reviews written by those who have only partly read books have considerable value. This is so when the reviewer is one competent and informed on the subject and when he possesses the knack of extracting in a rapid survey of the work what is really vital. Such reviews may be really critical, though in some measure incomplete. They may give an excellent estimate of the worth of a book.

Serious reviews, however, usually demand an attentive reading of all, or at least the greater part, of a book. But the fact that a book has been read from cover to cover does not necessarily mean that a review will be of any critical value. That depends upon the equipment and competence of the reviewer. Many so-called book reviews are merely accurate reports or abstracts of the contents of the book. Such reviews or abstracts have a decided informational value and when well

prepared are often of much interest, but they cannot be said to rise to the level of true literary criticism.

Of truly critical reviews, several types may be distinguished. One type frequently met with in the journals of learned societies might be called the microscopic review. The editor turns over the work of one specialist to the tender mercies of another specialist for review. The latter is desirous of showing his own superior knowledge of a subject; sometimes he may be a rival of the author. He often pays little attention to a general estimate of the book under review, but begins a detective hunt to expose every possible error in the work. If ten or twenty errors can be found they are set forth with the page references. The author is also informed of various sources of information which he should have used, but apparently did not know about. The cumulative effect of all this is to raise doubt whether the book is worth anything. Such reviews often provoke retorts from authors, and I have known several angry controversies to be waged between reviewer and author. As a matter of fact, a book may often be very useful in spite of numerous errors, if it deals with a subject of great detail. This method of piling up evidence of carelessness or ignorance is, however, very destructive in case of a really weak book.

Another type is the review essay. This is after the style of the great English reviews. One or more books on a subject furnish the text, as it were, for an essay by an expert. This essay may be very brilliant and informing, but often the writer in presenting his own ideas seems to forget the books he is supposedly reviewing. They are dismissed with a few perfunctory sentences. In this case the reviewer is like the preacher who, in the course of his sermon, is carried by his own eloquence far from the text originally proposed. Sometimes the essay writer takes a worthless book and makes it serve his purpose as the object of his amusing and clever satire. If the essay does not really inform us about the books supposedly reviewed, however able it is, it is not satisfactory as a book review. It uses space without serving our purpose. If the essay is a savage attack upon a poor book, it is unnecessary and inhumane. As Mr. Slosson, the literary editor of the *Independent*, says: "A man is not necessarily a criminal because he has written a poor book."

Cover it with a mantle of silence and let it die a natural death."

Somewhat similar to the essay of the literary reviews is the article based on a considerable number of books on the same or similar subjects. This is a pleasant running discussion of the books, with perhaps a paragraph or so on each one. This is not thoroughgoing or critical reviewing, but a clever writer using this method may present in a minimum of space the salient merits and characteristics of many books.

Without discussing too much in detail other possible methods of reviewing, let us consider what is the most serviceable sort of review for the purpose of the individual or librarian who is seeking to select books wisely. The first object of a good review is to give information to readers that there is such a book. Usually the review is preceded by a formal heading describing the book as to exact title, size, pages, publisher and sometimes price. Next a fair review should seek to state what the author has tried to do, to explain at more or less length his position or argument, and to discuss it in as readable a manner as possible. It will be in order for the reviewer in his discussion to point out peculiar merits or marked defects in the work under discussion. If the book in general be good, I do not think that too much should be made of such slight errors as are liable to creep into any book. Of course, a multitude of such errors would indicate carelessness and would cause one to distrust the scholarly spirit of an author. If the reviewer have special knowledge of the book, I think that it would also be in order for him to present his own views of the subject under discussion. Of course, the order in which these elements of a good review receive attention is subject to some variation. But I think that a critical review of about the type described will best serve the purposes of one who reads book reviews in order to choose wisely what he shall buy for a library or read for himself. Of the various methods of reviewing which have been mentioned, this, then, is the one which I think on the whole most useful. Quoting Mr. Slosson again: "Whether one buys, begs, borrows or steals books, he needs to know how to select them intelligently." And this last type of review seems to me the greatest aid to intelligent selection.

LIBRARY OF THE EPISCOPAL THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

The plans of this new building have been worked out by the interesting method described below, with the coöperation of the librarian, architect and another. The chief points aimed at in planning were large capacity for books and readers in proportion to area, opportunities for growth within the building, facilities for readers in the stack, a quiet reading-room, and concentrated administration.

LIBRARIAN'S STATEMENT.

The library of the Episcopal Theological School, at Cambridge, Mass., has up to the present time occupied the principal room in Reed Hall, a building in which were also lecture rooms and offices. By the generous gift of John G. Wright, Esq., one of the trustees, a separate building has now been provided and a site for it found on one side of the main quadrangle.

At the outset, the faculty decided that special libraries and seminar rooms could be provided for elsewhere; that the periodical room now used could serve for light reading in the future; and that the study rooms in residential suites would answer for quiet and separate study. The whole of a new building could thus be devoted to the shelving of books, to a general reading-room and to administration.

As the library has no endowment for general purposes, and the school has no prospect of funds available for future alteration or enlargement, it was considered necessary to provide within the building for future growth in books and readers; and also to plan such central and effective administration as would enable one attendant to manage and supervise at least the whole of the service floor of the library.

At present we have 15,000 bound volumes and 10,000 classified pamphlets. There are now 41 students and 10 professors and instructors.

The nature of the institution and its methods of instruction require a large use of the library, but they also limit its probable, even its possible, extent. The largest number of students which could be handled in the present plan may be fixed at 75, and of instructors say 12 or 15. A somewhat full use of the library by such a maximum was to be provided for.

The first plans presented were too costly, and did not sufficiently provide for growth. Hence the trustees called in as an adviser Mr. Charles C. Soule, an expert in planning library buildings. I, as librarian, suggested some minor changes in the plan which the architects and he subsequently presented—changes with a view to better and more cheerful accommodation for the librarian and for more perfect supervision. These changes were

made, and from the librarian's point of view I heartily commend the plan as adopted by the building committee of the trustees.

Work on the building began June 8, 1911, the corner-stone was laid July 17, and the building was ready for use early in 1912.

EDITH DAVENPORT FULLER,
Librarian.

ADVISER'S STATEMENT.

The problem to be solved was that of a small college library, practically free of access throughout to all professors and students; to be guarded, supervised and administered by one person.

It was relieved from some of the usual college complications by the determination of the faculty to provide in other buildings for seminar and special study rooms, and for recreative periodical reading. No coat rooms were desired, as all users of the library will room close by.

But the difficulty of planning was increased by the wish of the trustees to provide in advance, within the building, for all possible growth, both in books and in readers, to avoid any need of future changes or additions.

Definitely stated, the problem was how to provide now for 15,000 volumes and 10,000 pamphlets, and for, say, 40 readers, with available floor space for double the number of readers and shelving for three times the number of books, to be occupied as they might be needed.

Calculation indicated that a two-story building, with cellar, and main story large enough for librarian, all readers and those books frequently used, could not be built, furnished and operated within the required limit of cost.

A one-story building, with high, dry and light basement, was therefore planned, the main floor for service reading and commonly used books, the basement for service, storage, book vault and overflow of books, present and future.

To insure quiet and minimum motion in the reading-room, this was placed at the rear, farthest from stairs and entrance, with only enough wall shelving for a few books (these to be preferably sets not often used, so as again to minimize stir). The tables in the reading-room, at first openly spaced, are to be movable, so that more tables may be introduced, proportionably to increased use, and so that the floor can be cleared at any time for commencement or other functions. This need precluded the use of fixed desk lamps. At the outset, 4 tables, seating four each and 15 seating two, will provide for 46 readers. By reducing space to 16 square feet per reader, 70 can be seated, besides accommodations in the stack.

To economize space on this floor, steel "one-story" stacks were set perpendicular to the entrance and on each side of it. By thus using the entrance as the center aisle of the stack, the least possible area was taken up by hallways.

To increase the utility of the stack, both for the librarian in handling books and for readers in consulting them, the window embrasures (usually wasted in stacks) were occupied by fixing in each a shelf at table height. With a stool or small chair underneath, to be pulled out and used as required, this fixture supplies to some extent the place of the ledge of old-fashioned shelving, and allows books to be piled in collection or distribution, or to be taken down and examined by readers looking for materials, to this extent enlarging the reading facilities of the library.

Administration was concentrated in the center of the building. The card catalog case is to stand by itself directly in front of the entrance, and near it is a public desk for the librarian. On one side of the center is the librarian's private room, with stairs in view opposite, enclosing a lift to the janitor's space below. Next to the stairs is a rest-room, to be under the care of the librarian, for the use of ladies visiting students, who are not elsewhere provided for in a masculine institution like the Divinity School.

The basement, in addition to the usual working facilities and a strong-room, is devoted to wooden shelving arranged stackwise perpendicularly to the sides. Only so much of this is now constructed as is necessary for immediate use. Additional cases, to be added as needed, are suggested by dotted lines in the plan.

True stack-windows, that is, windows opposite each aisle between shelves, and occupying the full width of the aisle, extend throughout the basement and the stack portion of the main floor, with no cross lights and a minimum of dark places. The window embrasures in the basement are to have shelf tables like those in the stack above.

Inasmuch as very little of the basement will be needed at present for books, a temporary room is set off at the rear for whatever use the faculty may find for it (marked in plans "Class Room").

The center of the basement and the spaces opposite corner walls, not directly lighted by stack windows, furnish sufficient room for storing boxes, chairs and other impedimenta.

As the heating plant is in another building, no space was needed for boiler or fuel.

CHARLES C. SOULE.

ARCHITECTS' STATEMENT.

In the development of a building which should meet the requirements and conditions indicated above, the architects have endeavored to find a direct, straightforward solution of the problem. The location, in a quadrangle among buildings of the Gothic type, imposed the style of architecture and general lines of height, which have been made to agree with the nearest building, Burnham Hall.

This line is broken on the front by a central motive which expresses not only the main entrance, but also the entrance to the stacks on either side. This motive is broken up through

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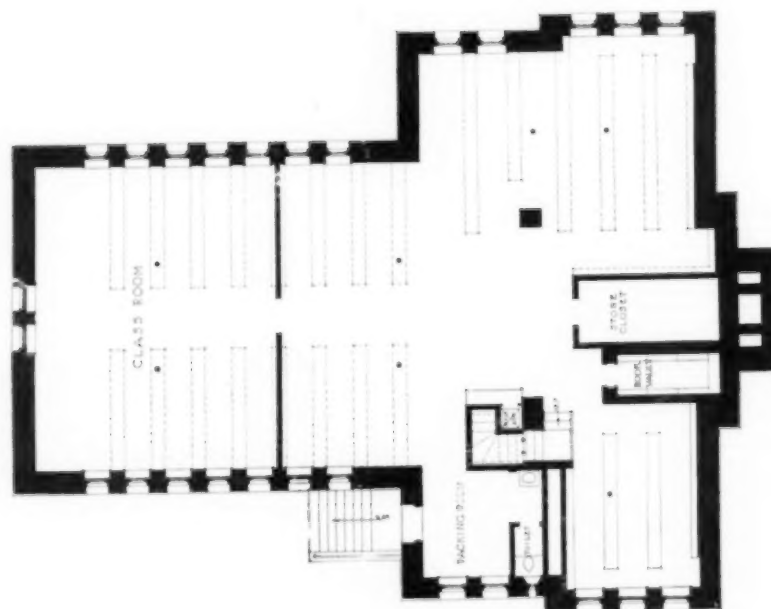
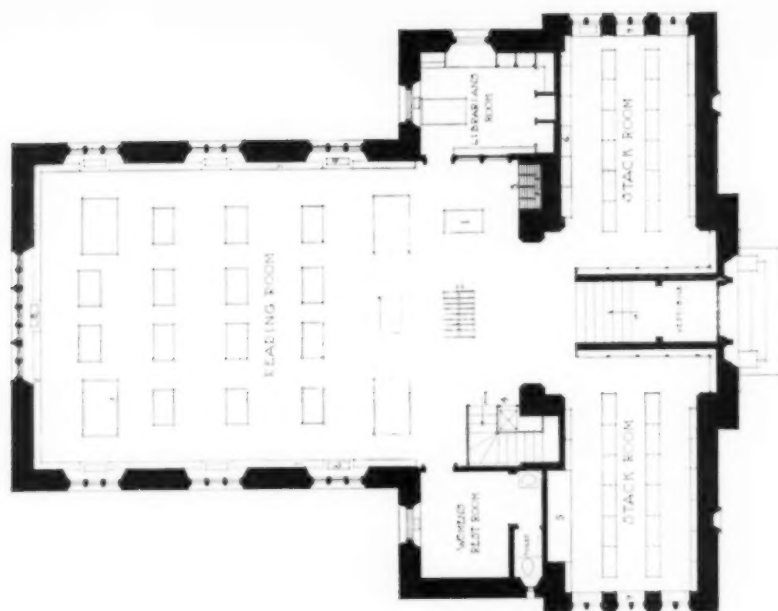
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LIBRARY OF THE EPISCOPAL THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.





LIBRARY OF THE EPISCOPAL THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL.

BASINENT AND FIRST FLOOR PLANS—SHIPLEY, BETAN & COLLINGS, ARCHITECTS.

the roof line to give a center of interest to the entire building. The side walls are blank (no light being required), except for a decorative spot which serves to give a certain added interest to this facade.

The side elevations offered some difficulties, owing to the high basement and the various sizes of windows, including the numerous stack windows, which must be placed close together. However, the plan has been expressed suitably and a certain relation obtained between the various elements which gives a satisfactory result.

The material of the exterior is seam-faced granite. The interior is finished in oak, with oak wainscot and oak trusses with plaster between. The floors are covered with cork carpet.

The heating and ventilating are of the most approved type, the indirect system being used, which insures fresh air in proper amount and well distributed.

The book stacks on the first floor are of steel.

The lighting in the reading-room is indirect, by reflection from the ceiling. This insures a uniform distribution of light throughout the room, and has the additional advantage of permitting the tables to be rearranged without the inconvenience of changing light outlets, which the old system of table lighting would require.

SHEPLEY, RUTAN & COOLIDGE.

Explanation of figures in plan of main floor.

1. Librarian's service desk.
2. Card catalog case; large folio shelves underneath.
3. Large folio shelves.
4. Book lift and stairs.
5. Folio and quarto shelving.
6. Quarto shelving.
7. Wall shelving, 4½ feet high, around reading-room.
8. Heating and ventilation, under windows.
9. Window desks; one for each aisle between bookcases.

LIBRARY APPOINTMENTS

In the Louisville Free Public Library the head of the catalog department resigned in August, 1911. Not until January, 1912, was official action taken in regard to a successor. The delay was due to difference of opinion in the board of trustees regarding the qualifications, both professional and residential, which should be emphasized or were required to fill the position properly. The issue between the librarian and a part of the trustees on one hand, and the remainder of the trustees opposed, is clearly defined as that one, still far too common in American libraries, relating to the proper emphasis upon local residence as a qualification for appointment to the library staff, as opposed to those personal and professional qualifications which seem to promise the greatest efficiency. The following letter appeared in a local paper in the course

of the discussion. Its author is Dr. E. Y. Mullins, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who has been a member of the library board since 1903:

"There are signs of weariness, and other signs of disgust, and yet other signs of indignation on the part of the Louisville public over the apparently inexcusable delay of the Public Library trustees in filling the vacancy at the head of the cataloging department. An unavailing wrangle in the board itself has been going on for weeks, and we seem no nearer a solution than at any time hitherto.

"As a member of the board, it seems to me proper to set forth a calm statement of the facts of the case. This for three reasons: first, to explain my own course and that of other members of the board who have not always been understood; second, to indicate more clearly than has hitherto been done the nature of the issue involved in the appointment of chief cataloger; and third, to point out some tendencies in the board which, if not checked, will, as it seems to me, inevitably prove fatal to the highest efficiency of the library. I may begin with the statement that there are at present among the members of the library board two very distinct and clearly defined policies of library administration. Behind these are two equally distinct conceptions of the ideals for which the library stands and the ends to be achieved through it.

QUALIFICATIONS.

"What, then, is the real issue as to policy and standard of administration? It is this: One group of trustees proceed on the following principles: (1) The modern public library is a very highly organized institution, with very definitely correlated parts; (2) Library administration is primarily and fundamentally in the interest of the general public, and not in the interest of individual applicants for positions or their friends; (3) The principal departments of the library should be in charge of those trained especially for their work; (4) To fill these places with incompetent people is to cripple the efficiency and usefulness of the library as a whole; (5) The question of where the applicant comes from is entirely subordinate to the question of competency and efficiency. Of course, where qualifications warrant, preference should be given to Louisville people, but not otherwise. These principles, which are in common use in general library administration, are sufficient to define the position of one group of trustees.

"What as to the other group? I do not wish to misrepresent, and hence I abstain from ascribing motives. My characterizations are based on actual occurrences and views openly proclaimed. Theoretically, no doubt, the other group would admit most of the preceding principles. Practically and actually, they ignore them. With them, efficiency is not the primary consideration. They do not admit that the library is a highly organized institution, requiring special training in their

practical stand for appointments. They assume that true loyalty to Louisville requires them not primarily to consider library efficiency in the interest of the public, but to vote first, last and always for Louisville people in filling vacancies.

"Repeatedly, illustrations have occurred in which it was assumed that residence in Louisville was *per se* a qualification in a library position. The plainest of common sense requires that in the case of two applicants where one is clearly qualified and the other doubtful, the choice should not fall upon the doubtful candidate.

"One trustee said, recently, he hoped and expected to see the day when there would be no one on the library staff except Louisville people. This was not accompanied by any expression of solicitude as to efficiency. Another has avowed that a Louisville person must and shall be appointed as head cataloger. Observe that no concern was expressed for competency and service to the Louisville public. Another trustee openly and boldly showed his disregard for the question of efficiency by refusing to vote for his own candidate for head cataloger because the motion carried with the appointment the requirement of a period of special preparation before actually taking charge of the cataloging department, and this without cost to the library. The chief librarian, the former head of the cataloging department, and the young lady herself all agreed in the importance of this special training to qualify her in the highest degree for her work should she be chosen. And yet a trustee, who is supposed to stand for the interests of the city, denied that the young lady needed any more training; and, although he favored her appointment, he was so opposed to her learning any more about cataloging, so opposed to the city of Louisville reaping any benefit from the increased efficiency of the candidate, that he voted against her appointment. The act was amazing, and would have been incredible had it been foretold as a possible course of action by anyone.

NEED OF TRAINED WORKERS.

"Does anyone claim that I have overemphasized the organization of the efficient library or the necessity for special training? If so, the reply is at hand. Take the cataloging department as an illustration. I do not hesitate to say that unless a book is properly cataloged it might as well be thrown into the Ohio River, so far as its availability and usefulness are concerned. Improper cataloging of a book is like cutting the nerve between the brain and any part of the body, or cutting the telephone wire connecting you with the main office. The book is lost for all time unless it can be obtained through the catalog. Now, what does this process of cataloging mean? The average visitor to the library has no conception of the process required and the dangers to a book involved

in the work of cataloging. The following facts will help in a measure to make the matter clear:

"1. What cataloging means.—There are two important steps in cataloging a book: first, assigning it a proper place and number on the shelves; second, making a guide which will tell of its presence in the library and direct the searcher to its place on the shelves. How thoroughly and correctly this work is done determines to a large extent whether a collection of books is usable and useful or useless, whether it really deserves the name of a library. The card system of cataloging universally adopted in modern libraries assigns to each work a separate set of cards and a definite place on the shelves, and a very definite and exact system of numbering and lettering connecting catalogs with shelves.

"2. Classification.—The library has 140,000 volumes. These deal with every subject under the sun. They would be a mere chaotic mass without classification, which brings those treating of like or related subjects together. Some of these works embody the results of lifelong thought and study by men and women of the greatest scholarship and learning.

"It requires not only good native ability, but also thorough training to place these books where they belong on the shelves, thereby locating them definitely for all time. A book misplaced is worse than worthless, because it takes up room and cannot be found when it is wanted.

"3. Languages.—The library has over 5500 volumes in French, over 4500 in German, and hundreds of volumes in Latin and Greek. Books in various foreign languages are constantly being added. It stands to reason that no one can handle these volumes even intelligently, much less in a masterly manner, without some knowledge of these languages.

"4. Various kinds of users.—The library is not only for popular, but also for scholarly, use. It is a school for all the people, for the man on the street and for the doctor of philosophy. It would be easier to arrange a collection of books for either of such types of users separately and alone, but to do it for the two combined and to produce a catalog that both can use jointly and satisfactorily requires the highest ability and skill.

"5. Various kinds of books.—Some books are comparatively simple and easy, such as fiction, which comprises about one-fourth of the library. But there are others which present the most complex problems even to specialists. An example is Wundt's *Voelkerpsychologie*, a German work in four large volumes, which deals largely with the development of language, religion, mythology, fine arts and all their related topics.

"A book on minerals sometimes needs to be considered under at least four distinct heads, for each of which there is a separate number in the system of classification. First, it may deal with chemical analysis and the

handling of minerals, which is called Mineralogy (549), a subhead under Chemistry. Second, it may treat the subject from the standpoint of Geology (552.3). Third, it may be on the mining of minerals, which is a subhead under Mining Engineering (622). Fourth, it may treat of extracting metal from ore, and therefore belong with Metallurgy and Assaying (66), a subhead under Chemical Technology.

"6. Subject headings.—A book having been given a definite place on the shelves and a class number assigned, a corresponding word or words must be selected under which it is to be entered in the catalog, which contains authors, titles and subjects arranged in one straight alphabetic order. A book on flying machines, *e. g.*, might be entered under airships, aerial navigation, aeroplanes, aeronautics, biplanes, or monoplanes. This illustration is very simple, but the problem of choosing correct headings and making cross references grows very complicated in the departments of science, technology, philosophy and history.

"7. Mental attitude.—The larger problems in classification and cataloging are those requiring breadth of vision, a judicial attitude of mind and the mental power and scholarship which can approach these problems with reasonable confidence, but which, at the same time, recognizes its limitations and becomes humble, very humble, in the presence of the boundless field of knowledge.

"8. Accuracy.—It should go without saying that next to good judgment, accuracy is of the utmost importance in cataloging. The slightest mistake in the mere copying of the author's name or the title and the imprint of a book may cause it to be lost to the searcher. Take the following brief illustration from the catalog:

- "Following of the star.
- "Following the colonies.
- "Following the drum.
- "Following the equator.
- "Following the Greek cross.
- "Following the sun-flag.

"Omit the word 'of' from the first title, which is natural, and its place would change from first to fifth, which throws it only a few cards out of place. But write Smith, William, instead of Smith, Albert William, and it will be alphabetized out of place by 291 cards. To alphabet a book thus out of its proper place would be equivalent to burning it or throwing it away. It would henceforth encumber the shelves and remain utterly useless for all time. A careless or inefficient cataloger could introduce chaos and irremediable disorder into the library in a few weeks. Illustrations like the above could be multiplied indefinitely.

LOCAL PEOPLE IN LIBRARY.

"It is obvious from the above that an incompetent head cataloger might do incalculable harm to the library. It is also clear that

very special gifts and a very wide acquaintance with books and a very considerable knowledge of several languages are required. Many able young women do not possess the mental aptitudes necessary for this peculiar work. Accuracy, painstaking, precision in word and expression are not common qualities even in the well-educated. Hence the folly and danger of insisting that some one from Louisville be appointed to this position, apart from other qualifications. Some of us have been charged with not caring for Louisville applicants. This is absurd on its face. Apart from the librarian, there is not a single outsider on the library staff to-day. All told, out of over forty on the staff, there have been only four since the library has been in operation—three besides the head librarian. As a matter of fact, well-qualified library officials are rare in all cities in all parts of the country, and it is no disparagement to Louisville to admit that we do not possess sufficient expert talent to equip our entire staff of over forty people.

"It ought to be obvious to the dullest comprehension from the foregoing that the interests of the Louisville public and of the library will be greatly imperilled by the appointment of an unfit person as chief of the cataloging department. The first and chief qualification in their eyes will be that the candidate lives in Louisville. They cannot conceive that our city might be enriched by talent drawn from other cities.

"The point has been urged by some that the librarian has been too free in pronouncing upon the qualifications of candidates. This is not true. He has never stood alone in his views as to candidates. Besides, who can judge so well as he? The members of the board, however, capable in their respective spheres, have not such specific knowledge of the qualifications of candidates as that possessed by the librarian. If your steam-heating plant is not working right, would you put your judgment as to the repairs or readjustments needed against that of an expert engineer? To ask the question is to answer it.

"The present division of sentiment in the board relates to the head of the cataloging department, but it reaches much further. It involves the whole policy of library administration. It has already taken the form of an effort to abolish the rule requiring a two-thirds vote when there is not unanimity in the recommendations of the library committee and the librarian on other radical changes. It is freely stated that when the three vacancies on the board are filled this spring, new appointments will be made, with a view to abolishing the present standards of library administration. I have not heard the Mayor say what he will do in filling these vacancies. I sincerely trust he will leave the present incumbents in their places. But in any event he will deal a deadly blow to library interests if he appoints men with low standards of library administration.

POLITICS.

"I have refused to believe, hitherto, and have so expressed myself in the board, that there was a systematic effort going on to degrade the library by introducing cheap politics into it. Recent developments, I must confess, begin to look very much that way. Patronage and 'pull' and machine politics are the only interests which can possibly be subserved by the policies and tendencies which seek to lower the level of library efficiency. In political sentiment my sympathies are with the party now in control of the city, and I certainly approve everything good done by the Mayor and his administration. But this does not blind me to facts, nor does it abate in the slightest degree my conviction that in city administration the prime requisites are cleanness, economy and efficiency, and that no man can be loyal to his city who does not stand for these ideals.

"In conclusion, I repeat that to abolish the merit system in library appointments, to permit personal or other considerations to control; in short, to proceed on any principle save that of efficiency and public service in library administration, means ultimately the degradation of our library to the level of a football, to be kicked about as the exigencies of party politics or the personal preferences of the board members may require. I do not charge that there is at present an element in the board who have deliberately resolved thus to degrade the library. Probably there is not. But I do assert with emphasis that if certain tendencies now operative in the board work themselves out, this will be the inevitable effect."

THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY SCIENCE*

HAS library management attained, in theory, if not yet in practice, something like perfection, so that in the future little can be expected in the way of further development? To the regular attendant at library conferences, with their unavoidable discussions and rediscussions of old questions, and with their increasingly minute subdividing of the larger themes of interest in order to find some few details that have not yet been talked about and written about to the point of exhaustion, it may occasionally seem as if there were henceforth nothing to be done but to go back to one's post and stay there, doggedly keeping at the daily task of giving out books, answering questions, guiding the seeker for knowledge, and in general making the library under one's care as useful as possible to the greatest possible number of persons.

In any such moment of weariness, when library parliaments are inclined to appear flat, stale and unprofitable, there is refreshment and stimulus in a backward glance at the progress of invention and discovery, and in a brief contemplation of the curious and

unexpected twists and turns that progress has taken. What soon arrests one's attention is that the most important discoveries have commonly been made in fields every square inch of which had seemed at the time to be perfectly familiar to mankind. To take a well-known example, the ordinary lock used on doors had been in use, with no radical modification, from the time of the early Egyptians up to the middle of the last century before it had occurred to anyone that the key of conventional pattern, with its cumbersome shank and other points of awkwardness, was quite unnecessarily clumsy. Then Linus Yale gave to the world a lock that could be operated with a tiny strip of notched metal, and even a lock that needed no key at all, but only a memory for a simple combination of numbers. Again, it was thought in England that the limit of rapid transit had been reached when the London and Edinburgh mail-coach service of Johnson's time was so perfected that serious apprehensions were entertained lest such a rate of speed should prove injurious to the traveler's health. But in little more than a century the world was to regard even the steam locomotive as a comparatively slow, old-fashioned, uneconomical, and altogether faulty piece of mechanism, sure to be superseded in the near future.

A cursory review of the history of mathematics—a science which Mr. Dewey has so brilliantly applied in one important branch of library work—shows strikingly how the most epoch-making discoveries have a way of occurring where there had before seemed the least possibility of them. To the mathematicians of the third century B.C., and, indeed, to subsequent mathematicians down to the seventeenth century A.D., Euclid probably seemed to have said the last word on the subject of geometry; and then, one fortunate morning, as the philosopher Descartes was lying awake in bed, there flashed upon him the idea of determining the position of a point by its linear coördinates, and the new field of coördinate geometry was opened, with its beautiful revelation of an unsuspected blood relationship, so to speak, between the properties of number and those of space. Before that time, not the faintest conception of the modern science of higher mathematics could have been had even by expert mathematicians. Another instance suggests itself: Menæchmus, a pupil of Plato and a tutor to Alexander the Great, had invented and elaborated the study of conic sections nineteen centuries before the birth of Kepler. The study had been pursued as a fascinating intellectual exercise, but without any thought of a possible application to concrete things. Also, the science of astronomy had been brought by Ptolemy, and fourteen hundred years later by Copernicus, to a stage of considerable advancement, but with no understanding of the mathematical laws governing the movements of the heavenly bodies. To Kepler, who was both a mathematician and

*Reprinted from *The Dial* of Feb. 1, 1912.

an astronomer, it was given to fit the two sciences together by applying the principles of conic sections, more especially of the ellipse, to the celestial phenomena, and to announce the famous three laws of planetary motion which every schoolboy now commits to memory.

Following the history of mathematics down to the time of modern library science, we come upon a marriage of the two sciences that reminds us of Kepler's happy application of conics to astronomy. Simon Stevinus, of Bruges, published his system of decimal notation in 1585, the use of decimal fractions having been up to that time all but unknown, and probably not even faintly imagined by many mathematicians. Stevinus's system was modified and reduced to the now current form by the English mathematician, Henry Briggs, in 1617. But more than two centuries and a half were still to elapse before anyone thought of applying this indefinitely expansible system of notation to the classification of books, or, indeed, to the classification of any collection of objects. Whether the happy thought came to Mr. Dewey one morning in bed, in the days of his Amherst librarianship, or whether he caught the idea among the bookshelves and while fretting over the inconveniences and stupidities of a "fixed location" system, cannot here be determined, and does not much matter, except that it would be pleasant to complete the parallel between him and Descartes. Suffice it for us that he did grasp the idea and applied it, so that some years later, at the convention of librarians in London, at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, the librarian of Oxford felt himself justified in asserting that Mr. Dewey's services to his profession had been greater than those of all previous librarians put together.

To the mediæval reader of chained books in monastic libraries, what faintest notion could there ever have come of the modern Dewey-decimalized library, with its Cutter author-marks, its highly evolved and yet simple charging system, its children's room and story hour, its branches and deposit stations, and, above all, its open shelves! Who knows but that we of the twentieth century may be living in a blindness equally complete as to the condition of public libraries of the year twenty-nine hundred and twelve? If it be true, as it undoubtedly is, that each important invention or discovery of the past has made possible an indefinite number of fresh ones in the future, why may it not be argued that the signal achievements in library science of the last half-century have advanced that science, not to the faultily faultless state of Tennyson's Maud, but to a high plane of excellence whence far loftier flights now first become possible? One circumstance at least counts strongly in favor of such a view. The great achievements in discovery and invention have been due to men of no narrow specialism. Newton, Descartes, Leibniz, Kepler, Copernicus, Galileo—these were all men of far

wider interests than might be indicated by the special services to science that have made their names household words. The "scientific imagination," so essential to progress in discovery and invention, flourishes best in the scientist who is least strictly confined to his one chosen department of study. What learned profession is there that calls for and develops a broader sweep of intellectual and practical interests than that of the librarian? Almost in a literal sense, he is obliged to know something of everything, and he is not likely to rest content until he knows everything of something. Bristling thus with points of affinity, reacting to so countless a number of external stimuli, the modern librarian should have the alertness, the receptiveness, the responsiveness, necessary to him who would break new roads, lay open new kingdoms, and make fresh discoveries. The history of library science, therefore, is not a closed book; there remain an indefinite number of interesting chapters still to be written, which are not unlikely to prove even more significant and attention-compelling than any that have gone before.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

THE following bill (H. R. 18720) has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Nelson and referred to the Committee on the Library:

"A bill to establish a legislative reference bureau in the Library of Congress.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that for the purposes hereinafter provided there is hereby created in the Library of Congress and under the administration of the Librarian of Congress a legislative reference bureau.

"SEC. 2. That the said bureau shall be under the immediate direction of a chief who shall be appointed by the Librarian of Congress without reference to party affiliation and solely on the ground of fitness by character, training, and experience to perform the duties of the office. His salary shall be fixed by the Librarian of Congress.

"SEC. 3. That there shall be in such bureau such legal, technical, and clerical assistants as may from time to time be necessary. They shall be appointed in the same manner as other employees in the Library, by the Librarian of Congress, who shall fix the compensation to be paid to each. There may also be employed by the Librarian special or temporary service for research not within the abilities of the regular staff.

"SEC. 4. That it shall be the duty of the said bureau to gather, classify, and make available in translations, indexes, digests, compilations, and bulletins, and otherwise data for or bearing upon legislation and to render such data serviceable to Congress. The several executive and scientific departments, bureaus,

and commissions of the Federal Government shall give to the bureau ready access to their records and full information and reasonable assistance in any matters of research requiring recourse to them or to data within their knowledge or control.

"Sec. 5. That public bills or amendments to public bills shall be drafted by the bureau, under the direction of its chief, whenever any committee of either House of Congress or five Members of the Senate or fifteen Members of the House of Representatives or the President of the United States shall make a request and shall furnish to the chief of the bureau written instructions setting forth the substance of the provisions desired. And in all cases such instructions shall be considered confidential until the bill shall have been presented to Congress.

"Sec. 6. That the bureau shall not draft private or local bills or bills for private persons.

"Sec. 7. That space and equipment for the bureau shall be provided in the Library Building, in addition to such space and equipment as may be desirable in the Capitol and Senate and House Office Buildings; and the regular appropriations of the Library shall be available for its purposes in addition to the special appropriation hereinafter provided.

"Sec. 8. That for the establishment and maintenance of the said bureau during the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirteen, there is hereby appropriated to the Library of Congress the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and this sum shall be available for all the requirements of the bureau, including the acquisition of data, advance subscription to and purchase of publications and other material in addition to that which may be acquired out of the ordinary appropriations of the Library, and to service, transportation, traveling expenses, stationery, postage, telegrams, and incidentals. Printing and binding required for the use and service of the bureau shall be provided for out of the annual allotment of the Library of Congress for printing and binding.

"For succeeding years estimates of the appropriations necessary for its maintenance, and for any additional work in the Library auxiliary thereto, shall be included in the estimates for the Library annually submitted by the Librarian of Congress."

INDEX TO DATES.

THE office of the PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY began in February the publication of a new monthly periodical, the INDEX TO DATES.

The INDEX TO DATES is the successor of two independent previous lists: the annual "Index to Dates," published since 1895, in the Annual Library Index, and the quarterly "Current Events Index," begun by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, and published since 1910 by the H. W. Wilson Com-

pany as a feature of their *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*.

The wide use of these two publications, not only for date reference *per se*, but as an index to the daily newspaper press—an immense mass of material otherwise almost inaccessible bibliographically—has suggested the enlargement to separate periodical form of this feature of the two former periodicals. In effect, the new periodical will do for the newspapers what the *Readers' Guide* has done so well for the magazines.

It is intended for the trained literary worker, the library of every grade, and those newspaper offices unable to carry the enormous expense of newspaper indexes of their own. It will aim to cover thoroughly all the news of the United States, as a whole, which is of permanent importance, such of its local news as has more than local appeal, and such news of the world at large as would be of interest to the American reader—and this, so far as possible, even in the specialized fields of endeavor. The scope of the INDEX is necessarily elastic, and the INDEX itself will be enlarged in immediate response to the financial support it meets.

CHECKING DUPLICATE COPIES ON SHELF-LIST CARDS

LAST year the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh had to solve the problem of completing an inventory of its books within a short period of time, and some study was given to the matter to determine the best methods for carrying on the work.

The shelf list, which is the obvious inventory record, was found to be inadequate to our needs, as the accession numbers had been blocked on the card, and, consequently, there was no way to check individual copies as found. For example, the record of accession numbers 4428-32, covering copies 1-5, leaves no room for checking copies 2, 3 and 4. To simplify methods, and to give us a quick way of checking the books, the card illustrated was devised. These printed cards were taken to the shelves and the copy number checked as books were identified. Charges were checked in the same way, after which the checked card was compared with the shelf-list card, and copies not found were recorded. This gave us a check on the shelf list as well as on the books, and has the same advantage over an inventory book that any card record has over a book record. The checks on the cards are erased after the inventory record for the year is completed, and are then ready for the next year's inventory.

Another use is also made of this form of card which has reduced the record work to a considerable extent in the catalog department. We now use the card as a shelf-list card for all books of which we buy many copies. Author, title and call number are written on the face of the card, and copy numbers are underscored as copies are re-

Lang	Little Red Riding-hood																j398	L23A
1	7	13	19	25	31	37	43	49	55	61	67	73	79	85	91	97		
2	8	14	20	26	32	38	44	50	56	62	68	74	80	86	92	98		
3	9	15	21	27	33	39	45	51	57	63	69	75	81	87	93	99		
4	10	16	22	28	34	40	46	52	58	64	70	76	82	88	94	100		
5	11	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83	89	95	101		
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102		

Form 542 [3-8-11-5m]

40236-41 c1

40546-64 c7

SHELF-LIST CARD USED IN THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH.

ceived. This shows at a glance just how many copies are in the library. Withdrawn copies are indicated by a line drawn through the copy number. For example, the above card indicates that 25 copies have been received, and that of these copies 3, 6, 8 and 9 have been withdrawn. Accession numbers are written on the back of the card, and, as the copy numbers are distinctly indicated on the face, the accession numbers can be blocked, because their only use is as an index to the accession book. By this means we save, in a purchase of 50 copies of a title, the writing of 48 accession numbers, and we get a shelf-list card which can at all times be used as an inventory card.

The card is a printed form, and is supplemented by a second printed card continuing the numbering when the copy numbers exceed 102. The card is much more easily deciphered than the old form, and the time saved by its use is considerable.

MARGARET MANN,
Chief Cataloger, Carnegie Library of
Pittsburgh.

ATLANTIC CITY MEETING

Second Session.

Chairman: Miss Elizabeth H. Wesson, President New Jersey Library Association; Librarian, Free Library, Orange, New Jersey.

The Library's Opportunity to Further Efficient Government, William Harry Allen, Ph.D., Director of the Bureau of Municipal Research, New York City.

Third Session.

Chairman: Dr. Ernest Cushing Richardson, Librarian, Princeton University.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, lecture recital.

Paul M. Pearson, Department of Public Speaking, Swarthmore College.

Address: Melvil Dewey.

Announcement of the Travel Committee of the American Library Association, Mr. Frederick W. Faxon, Boston Book Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

The program of the first session, as also railroad rates and hotel arrangements, were printed in the February LIBRARY JOURNAL.

BOOK DISINFECTION BY HOT MOIST AIR

In an article in the *Journal of the American Public Health Association* on "Book disinfection," L. B. Nice favors the use of moist hot air, and concerning this, the following paragraphs may be of interest:

"Moist hot air is an entirely satisfactory disinfectant; for it kills all the bacteria, it does not injure the books and is inexpensive and easy to use. This method was perfected by Xylander and Findel working independently. Xylander's work is especially thorough, for he made more than a thousand inoculations. A temperature of 78 to 80° C. (176° F.) and 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. moisture for 32 hours will kill all non-spore bearing bacteria in closed books, even thick layers of tubercle bacilli, and does not injure the most delicate bindings in any way, even after months of disinfection. A higher temperature than 80° C. and more moisture than 40 per cent. is injurious to books. When a pile of books is being disinfected, a small thermometer should be placed in a thick book in the middle of the pile. The disinfection should be counted as begun when this thermometer reaches 70° C. (158° F.), which may be 12 hours after the thermometer on the door registers 80° C. (176° F.) The disinfection must continue for 32 hours in order to kill all the bacteria. I had perfect success with this method in more than 70 tests.

"The apparatus necessary is simple. It consists of a double walled case of galvanized iron, with water filling the space between the walls. There are two doors, the inner of glass and the outer of galvanized iron. A thermometer and hygrometer are fastened to the side of the glass door, so that it can be read without opening the apparatus. The shelves for the books may be of perforated galvanized iron or of wire. The moisture is supplied by a water pipe opening near the bottom of the disinfector, so that the water drips slowly into a flat dish of porous material, such as unglazed clay or tile. This becomes saturated and gives up its moisture in the form of vapor. Heat is furnished from beneath by gas, gasoline, or oil burners. In such an apparatus, two feet wide, two feet deep, and three feet high, 300 to 400 school books can be disinfected at one time.

"School books ought to be disinfected by the moist hot air method during vacations. Library books that are much in use should be disinfected at regular intervals. Boards of health should report daily to schools and libraries all cases of contagious diseases, such as scarlet fever, whooping-cough, typhoid, dysentery, erysipelas, diphtheria, venereal diseases, smallpox and tuberculosis, and all books used by such patients should be disinfected by moist hot air."

REPORT OF THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE OF FRANCE.

THE latest published report of the *Bibliothèque Nationale* is that of 1910, signed by M. H. Marcel, the general director, printed in the *Journal Officiel* of last year, covering in separate paragraphs the departments of printed matter, maps and geographical collections; of manuscripts; of medals and antiquities; and of prints. Twenty years ago the number of volumes was placed at 3,000,000, the increase since then being about 50,000 per year, so that the total has now reached about 4,000,000. Lack of space and the small personnel is noted, as well as the lack of mechanical apparatus for transportation of books from one part of the building to another. Yet it takes not much more than a quarter hour after the demand to place the book in the hands of the reader.

The number of readers has exceeded 750 on some days, the seating capacity being only 344. There were 186,990 readers during the year in the reference room, 572,168 volumes being borrowed; 34,906 readers in the reading room, 52,327 volumes being borrowed. Accessions through legal deposit were: Seine: 5792 books and pamphlets, 160,000 journals and periodicals, 6507 music; départements: 10,220 books and pamphlets, 11,480 electoral hand-bills, 380,000 journals and periodicals; foreign books: 12,225; old books: 87; foreign reviews and periodicals: 72,000; gifts more than 6000 volumes.

The service of the inventory is not addressed to publishers, but to authors. In the course of printing the general catalog, there were sent to those authors, of which addresses could be procured, the slips in proof of their bibliography (works) for correction and addition. Many authors were glad to send their works which were lacking, so that during 1910 alone there were received 1500 books and pamphlets from authors whose names began with Do—Du.

Work on catalogs during 1909-10 included: general catalog of printed works, volumes XLII-XLV. (Dript-Dur), catalog of royal acts, catalog *methodique* of American history, catalog of anonymous works on the history of France, catalog of law cases, and catalogs of ancient music, alphabetic repertory of books at the disposition of readers in the reference room of the department of printed works. Work on the subject catalog, begun in the preceding year, of the volumes of the general catalog (letter D), has been continued. For two and a half volumes it did not reach less than 30,000 cards.

The department of manuscripts gives also its number of readers, etc., and lists 14 catalogs and repertories prepared.

In the department of prints the accession of photographs is particularly noted.

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY—CHILDREN'S OPENING

It seemed best not to allow the children to attend the general opening of the new St. Louis Public Library Building, Jan. 6, but to issue books for a few days, as usual, and then to set aside a day when all departments might be free to show them some attention, without interfering with the rights of the grown people. Notice to that effect was posted in the library and advertised in the local newspapers, and an invitation for Jan. 13 was mailed to the principals of all the public, parochial and other schools in the city.

Unfortunately, the weather man was forgotten in sending out the invitations, and as a reminder of the neglect, he sent zero weather. When the doors were opened at nine o'clock, Saturday morning, the thermometer registered six degrees below, but at least a dozen children were waiting outside, and came in with the true Missouri "show-me" air. By ten o'clock the room was well filled, and two groups of about forty each were started in opposite directions on a tour of inspection, under the care of a children's librarian or branch librarian, assisted by a student from the training class. A third group was started about fifteen minutes later. This continued throughout the day, excepting at two o'clock, when it was again necessary to start two groups.

The route varied, but included all the departments open to the public—the bindery, the catalog room, the training classrooms and the stacks. Short talks were given in convenient places by Dr. Bostwick, heads of departments, and leaders of the groups. Each group began or ended its tour in a story hour room, where stories were told all day by children's librarians from the branches. Two boys were heard lamenting the fact that after "sneaking" out of one group and "walking a mile" to hear another story they found themselves on the third floor with a "bunch" who had heard a story on the first. The children were appreciative and orderly, and many a grown person joined them and followed the leaders about with "mouths closed tight and eyes wide open," as directed. If the accounts of any part of the building or any particular equipment was not sufficiently exciting to the children, they used their realizing imagination. According to one small boy, the modified reproduction of the Michael Angelo ceiling, from the Laurentian Library in Florence, in the periodical room, was "made by a Dago and brought over the ocean in pieces in a boat." To others, the Applied Science Department was the place "where a fellow finds out everything," and the bindery "a place to get a drink; besides, they mend books there, and a lady gave us a talk."

The children's room was pronounced the best of all, and some of the children liked the books so well that they could not be induced

to leave them. The following is copied verbatim from a letter written in a school room the following week:

"I went up there with your brother Tom and we went in the reading room and read a part of the history of the United States and they ask me if I went to look at the rooms and I was so interested in the book I read that I would not go after well I felt sorry for not going because when the boys came back they telled me the different things they saw."

It was impossible to count the attendance, but 943 children were entertained in the story hour rooms during the day, and 828 books were issued from the children's room. The registration was larger than usual, but most of the children were regular patrons of the library. Perhaps the severe cold weather kept away those less interested. On the whole, the entertainment served to arouse civic pride and was worth the effort put forth by the whole staff. A worthy secondary effect has been that the children are better satisfied to stay in their own room, and are not so attracted to other parts of the building through idle curiosity.

EFFIE L. POWER,
Supervisor of Children's Work.

State Library Associations

ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Arkansas Library Association held its second annual meeting, Jan. 24 and 25, in the Carnegie City Library at Fort Smith.

The program for Wednesday evening, to which the public was especially invited, consisted of a series of short addresses on library development. It was preceded by an informal reception in the rotunda of the library. Many of the representative men and women of the city made this an opportunity of showing their interest in the work undertaken by the new organization. After two musical selections, Mr. C. W. L. Armour, the president of the association, made the opening address, in which he called attention to the great undeveloped resources of Arkansas, and he urged the need of education in order that the people of Arkansas might be fitted to develop these resources. Mr. Armour spoke as a business man, with a practical end in view—the betterment of the state. As a means to this end, the Arkansas Library Association had been organized a year ago, and he earnestly requested the aid and co-operation of all public-spirited citizens.

Mr. Armour then introduced Mrs. Arthur P. Jones, of Little Rock, whose subject was "An ideal system of libraries for the state." Her plan included some needed educational reforms and the appointment of a library commission.

The next speaker, Mr. Lovick P. Miles,

said that the most essential step was to arouse public sentiment, now almost dormant in most of the state. If communities are aroused to the need of libraries, they will demand the necessary legislation. Mr. Miles also amplified the present law, showing that any city of the first and second class can obtain an appropriation from the general fund for a library building or for maintenance purposes; that gifts dependent upon a maintenance fund may also be secured.

Mr. Harry E. Kelly followed with a short talk on the "Value of libraries to Arkansas," in which he pointed out what had been done in other states, declaring that Arkansas could not take her proper place until the present Constitution is abolished and each community is allowed to levy a tax adequate for schools and libraries.

"Relation of the public library to the public schools" was discussed with enthusiasm and hopefulness by Judge F. A. Youmans. Mr. H. F. Auten, of Little Rock, condemned the legislature for its laxity in educational matters, and urged the necessity of organized work in the library field.

Early Thursday morning, the visiting librarians met to discuss the problems of book selection, book buying, mending and other practical details. At ten o'clock the business session was called to order by the president, and the minutes of last year's meeting were read and approved. The principal object of this meeting was to devise practical plans for promoting library interests throughout the state. As a result of a discussion on this subject, Mrs. A. P. Jones made a motion that "A committee be appointed by the president to prepare a bill providing for a library commission, with a reasonable appropriation for carrying on its work, this bill to be submitted to the legislature at its next session." The motion, seconded by Miss Sandels, was carried unanimously. The association urgently recommends that in order to keep the work out of political control that no member of the commission shall be such by virtue of his office, and that the secretary employed by the commissioners shall be an experienced librarian and a graduate of a good library school.

In the interval that must elapse before the legislature meets, it was proposed that the state association shall assume the work of a commission and by voluntary subscriptions secure the services of an organizer or field secretary, whose duty it shall be to visit the various towns of the state, giving advice to struggling libraries, show communities what may be done under the existing law, and stimulating public interest. This resulted in a motion by Mrs. Thomas Barnes that "A field secretary be appointed to carry on library education and extension throughout the state." Seconded by Mrs. Jones, the motion carried. In order to secure the necessary funds for this undertaking, it was suggested that the association raise \$500 by apportioning the

amount among the different towns of the state. With this amount, it was thought that a secretary could be employed for three months as a beginning. The financial details were left in the hands of the officers of the association.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Little Rock, leaving the exact date to be determined by the executive board, with the suggestion that it be early in the legislative session.

The following officers were elected: President, C. W. L. Armour, Fort Smith; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. P. Jones, Little Rock; Mrs. Lora Goolsby, Fort Smith; and Mrs. I. H. Crawford, Arkadelphia; secretary, Miss Ione Armstrong, Fort Smith; treasurer, Miss M. M. Pugsley, Little Rock.

IONE ARMSTRONG, *Secretary*.

GEORGIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

At a late meeting of the executive committee of the Georgia Library Association, Miss Katharine Hinton Wooten was elected secretary-treasurer of the association, to fill the place left vacant by the resignation of Miss Julia Rankin, on her marriage to Mr. Frank Foster.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB

In a tentative report the committee on co-operation between the Massachusetts Library Club, other library clubs of the state and the Free Public Library Commission makes known its opinion thus:

1—The Massachusetts Library Club hold at least one of the three meetings of the year in the central or western part of the state, and that the January meeting be held in Boston or in its immediate vicinity.

2—That the local club or clubs unite with the Massachusetts Library Club in its meeting, when held in a convenient place, and so reduce the number of meetings which the various club members are asked to attend.

3—That the program of the Massachusetts Library Club meeting contain, if possible, some features of special interest to the librarian and trustees of the small library.

4—That the local club or clubs of the section of the state in which the Massachusetts Library Club holds its meeting have some part in making up the program for the meetings.

5—That so far as practicable the meetings of the Massachusetts Library Club be stated meetings, in order that the other clubs may arrange their sessions not to conflict. It is suggested that the Massachusetts Library Club hold its regular meetings during the third or fourth week in October, and during the third or fourth week in January, and that the annual meeting be held the second Thursday in June, as provided for in the constitution.

6—That the executive committee of the Massachusetts Library Club be prepared, upon request, to give assistance in arranging pro-

grams for the smaller clubs, making use when necessary of information possessed by the Commission.

Regarding the coöperation between the Commission and local library clubs, the committee suggests that when advisable and practicable each of the small clubs arrange a two or three days' library institute to be in charge of the Commission, and at which the agent, with proper assistance, should give instruction in library administration, the use of reference books, work with schools, repair of books, etc., and should make an exhibit of materials and aids of service to the small library.

The committee suggests the following plan for avoiding duplication of similar material in library publications, and for rendering more available publications of individual libraries: Librarians should be urged to send to the secretary of the Massachusetts Club for publication in the *Bulletin* advance notices of their intention to print lists or other aids that might be generally useful, with a statement of cost of printing additional copies. The secretary of the club, on receipt of such information, should send notice to the larger libraries, who could place orders, when desired. The expense of the necessary clerical work should be borne by the Massachusetts Club. Where the publication seemed to meet a manifest need of the smaller libraries, the Commission, at its expense, might order copies for distribution to them. To avoid the preparation of similar lists by different libraries, formal announcement of contemplated lists of some importance might be made a part of the program of each club meeting held in the state, duplicate copies of such announcement to be sent to the secretary of the Massachusetts Club.

To facilitate the sale, gift or exchange of surplus books and magazines, it is suggested that each librarian list such material on slips of standard catalog size, stamped with the name of the library, and in the same way notebooks and magazines desired. At each local club meeting these slips should be given to the secretary, who could arrange all possible gifts or transfers between members of the club. The remaining slips might be exchanged with secretaries of other clubs, who could arrange other gifts or transfers when practicable; slips still remaining to be deposited with some designated committee or central agency.

The committee is of the opinion that it would be well to enlarge the scope of the club *Bulletin* by printing "Notes of library progress" in each issue, and that the librarians should be urged to send such notices to the secretary of the Massachusetts Club for publication. It is the judgment of the committee that current notices would not only be of real interest, but that they would be more widely read when published quarterly in the *Bulletin* than when printed in the report of the Commission. The said "Notes" could be supplemented from time to time by information in the possession of the Commission and its agent,

so that notice of the work of all live libraries would appear in the *Bulletin*.

In stimulating the exchange of books under chapter 140 of the Acts of 1911, it is the opinion of the committee that it should ascertain to what extent and under what conditions not only the free city libraries, but the university, college, and large private libraries are willing to lend reference and other expensive books to small libraries in their vicinity on occasional demand or for study clubs or for other purposes.

To foster and develop library administration in the small libraries, the committee should find under what conditions the large public libraries of the state are willing to give expert aid to the small library by sending for a few days, or even a day, one of their assistants to a library in a neighboring town for purposes of advice and instruction in simple methods of library administration; and it should also find out how many of the large libraries are willing to receive and to give expert aid and training for a limited period to a visiting librarian from a small town.

Further, that the committee should compile a list of speakers who may be obtained from libraries or through their help, and should place the same at the disposal of the executive committee of the Massachusetts Club for use in making program suggestions to local clubs.

The committee comprises: Charles F. D. Belden, chairman, state librarian and chairman of the Free Public Library Commission; Robert K. Shaw, president Bay Path Library Club; Miss Harriet B. Sornborger, president Southern Worcester Library Club; Miss Anna L. White, president Berkshire County Library Club; Miss Martha N. Soule, vice-president Cape Cod Library Club; George L. Lewis, former president Western Massachusetts Library Club; John G. Moulton, librarian Haverhill Public Library and secretary Massachusetts Library Club; Miss Zaidee Brown, agent of the Commission; Miss Louisa M. Hooper, librarian Brookline Public Library and secretary of the committee.

Library Clubs

CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB

The February meeting of the Chicago Library Club was held on the evening of the 8th, at the Chicago Public Library. About one hundred were present, and two new members were elected.

Mr. William Morton Payne, of the *Dial*, gave some reminiscences of early libraries and librarians of Chicago. Mr. Payne's acquaintance with Chicago libraries began in 1868. Although only ten years of age at that time, he was a constant visitor at the libraries then available, chiefly those of the Y. M. C. A. and the Young Men's Christian Union. When the Chicago Public Library was opened in 1874 he was enrolled as a reader on the

day of its opening, and in the same year became assistant there. Closely associated as he was with some of the founders of the library and with its first administrators, and gifted with a wonderful memory, Mr. Payne was able to recall many incidents of those early days. He was a warm friend of Dr. Poole, and in closing paid him the following tribute: "Upon those who had the privilege of his intimacy was made the impression, dominant above all others, of his absolute integrity, intellectual and moral. They realized that here was a man who simply could not think one thing and say another, or swerve by so much as a finger's breadth from what he believed to be the right course, were the matter in question great or small."

HARRIE EDNA BROOKE, *Secretary*.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB

The annual winter meeting was held at Longmeadow, Feb. 8, 1912, in the Storrs library, William B. Mendlicott, president of the board of trustees, giving the welcome. The book list of 1911, compiled by the Club, was first discussed. The point of getting the books read was considered, and Librarian Wellman, of Springfield, thought the keynote to this situation was the means the librarian took to advertise and recommend the books. One person might read a book and like it and keep it locked up in his soul, but another might read it and in a month his word for it and his reflectibility, so to speak, might make a constant demand for it.

After a delightful lunch, Miss Farrar led a discussion on preserving local history. Many little hillside towns have valuable possessions, and it is the librarian who should create an interest in them for the town's sake, and she herself should collect the current history and properly arrange and file it. He should have a complete file of the county history, town reports which keep history up to date, and genealogies. Keep church calendars, which is the best way to keep church history intact, programs of entertainments and menu cards. These may seem uninteresting now, but how interesting to pick up a menu card of thirty years ago and see what a list of hearty things were supplied then. A file of the school reports should be kept, and newspaper clippings are of great value, as more local history comes out in this form. These all should be properly classified under general headings, such as "churches," "business," "education," etc.

Miss Barney spoke of her work in collecting village catalogs and photographs. Mrs. Mary P. Wells read a paper on "A historic sketch of women in the United States."

Library Schools and Training Classes

TRAINING SCHOOL CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF ATLANTA

Miss Florence Bradley, 1906, has been appointed head of the circulation department of

the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, to succeed Miss Anna May Stevens, whose marriage will take place on the 20th of February.

Miss Fanny Turner, 1911, has succeeded Miss Bradley as secretary of the Library Training School.

The lectures from visiting lecturers will begin in March, when Miss Edna Lyman comes for her usual week of instruction in children's work and story-telling.

The class this year had the unusual advantage of a lecture during the first term. On the 17th of November, Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, of St. Louis, gave a very enjoyable talk on the companionship of books. Dr. Bostwick had come South to attend the meeting of the Alabama Library Association in Tuscaloosa, and made the visit to Atlanta at the invitation of the school.

MRS. PERCIVAL SNEED, *Principal*.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY—LIBRARY SCHOOL

Non-faculty lectures since the last report have been as follows:

Feb. 1.—Mr. E. H. Anderson. Second lecture on the large library building.

Feb. 2.—Mr. Edward L. Tilton. The library building from the architect's point of view.

Feb. 5.—Mrs. Adelaide B. Maltby. The administration of the branch library.

Feb. 6 and 14.—Miss A. C. Moore. The administration of the children's room.

Feb. 7.—Mr. E. H. Anderson on the branch library building.

Feb. 9.—Miss Louise G. Hinsdale. The administration of the town library.

Feb. 12 and 19.—Mr. E. H. Anderson. The administration of the large library.

Feb. 14.—Mr. Thomas Letts (of the New York Geographical Society) on the history of map-making.

Feb. 16, 23, and March 1.—Miss Adelaide Hasse on government documents.

Feb. 21.—Symposium on the work with children, by Misses Browne, Carter, Cutler, Dalphin, Overton, and Schumm, children's librarians.

On the evening of February 8th Mr. George A. Plimpton spoke to the library staff and the school on his collection of early text-books, now on exhibition at the library.

Mr. E. W. Gaillard spent two hours with the class explaining the history and use of the various blanks and forms used by the circulation department, and Mr. W. H. Swarten gave the students an hour in the printery and in the bindery, with full explanation of the processes. The printery also supplied the class with material for proof-correcting, a full set of proof corrector's marks, etc.

On Valentine's Day, the school gave a valentine party to the faculty and various members of the library staff, the decoration, entertainment, etc., being entirely a student undertaking, and very successful.

Two examinations for probationers have

been given since the last report, one on January 20th, and the other on February 17th.

Although no mention of a library trip was made in the school circular, ten or eleven students with an instructor will visit New England libraries during the week from March 22d to 29th, seeing the libraries of Springfield, Worcester, Boston and suburbs, Providence and New Haven. MARY W. PLUMMER.

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

The new plan of practice work, under which the students will spend four weeks of consecutive work in libraries outside of Albany, goes into effect this year. School exercises will be suspended during this period, which begins March 4 and ends March 30. A debt of gratitude is due to the many leading libraries that have cooperated so willingly that the opportunities for work exceed the number of students to be provided with work. The annual library trip will immediately follow the practice period. This is the year for the biennial New England visit.

An unusual number of visiting lecturers have been scheduled during the past few weeks. They include the following, in addition to the special lecturers in library work with children:

January 18-19. Lutie E. Stearns on "The library militant" and "Some phases of western library activity."

January 29-30. Frank P. Hill, two lectures in the advanced administration course, dealing chiefly with "Professional training" and with the organization of the Brooklyn Public Library.

February 1-2. Dr. Theodore W. Koch, two lectures on "University libraries." Dr. Koch's second lecture was illustrated and emphasized the relation of the architecture of university libraries to their work with users of the libraries.

February 2-3. Arthur E. Bostwick, two lectures; one, an illustrated lecture on the St. Louis Public Library and its work, the other on "The companionship of books."

The lecture course in Library work with children consisted of ten lectures. Five of these were by Miss Clara W. Hunt (February 5-7), and dealt with the administrative side of the work, with the general principles of book selection and with picture books for small children. These were followed by two lectures by Miss Amena Pendleton (February 9-10) on Myths and classics adapted to children's use. Three lectures (February 15-17) on Books for boys, Books for girls, and Information books, by Miss Ethel P. Underhill, children's librarian of the Worcester (Mass.) Public Library. In addition to these lectures, Mr. Frank P. Hill devoted a considerable portion of one of his lectures to a discussion of the importance to a chief librarian of some knowledge of work with children. Mr. Wyer will close the course with a lecture on the place of the library in selecting reading for the home.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the school, which is in press, deals in some detail with the temporary changes in the school occasioned by the destruction of the State Library.

NOTES OF POSITIONS.

Coffin, Miss Helen, B.L.S., '08, has resigned her position as assistant in the legislative reference section of the New York State Library, to become legislative reference librarian of the Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

Harron, Miss Julia S., B.L.S., '05, has been engaged as temporary assistant at the Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library.

Peck, Miss Harriet R., B.L.S., '04, has resigned her position as librarian of the Gloversville (N. Y.) Free Public Library, to become librarian of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, at Troy, N. Y.

Vasbinder, Miss Lida C., '09-'10, has been appointed assistant in the New York State Library. F. K. WALTER.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH TRAINING SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

The autumn term of the Training School for Children's Librarians closed on Dec. 19, 1911. The winter term opened on Jan. 3, 1912. Four new students were enrolled.

Miss Effie L. Power, Supervisor of Children's Work in the St. Louis Public Library, gave a course of lectures on Story-telling and Book selection, November 15-29.

Dr. Robert C. Moon, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Home Training Society, lectured on November 17 on Work with the blind.

Mr. George A. Macbeth, Chairman of the Committee on Library of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Library, of Pittsburgh, lectured on December 16, his subject being Relation of children's work to library work in general.

Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, instructor in the School of Education of the University of Chicago, spent January 8-12 with the school, giving a course of ten lectures on story-telling. The subjects of the lectures were: Fairy tales (old); Fairy tales (modern); Adaptation of stories; Hero tales (Greek); Hero tales (Norse); Nature stories and myths; Poetry; Realistic story; Animal tales; Story hour.

Mr. Seumas MacManus, Irish folklorist, gave the following series of lectures for the school: January 20, Stories and story-telling, Irish story-telling, East Liberty Branch Library; January 26, Readings from his own tales and poems, chiefly humorous; January 27, Irish story-telling, Lawrenceville Branch Library; January 27, Stories of Irish fairy and folk-lore, Homewood Branch Library.

On February 8, Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick lectured on the Work of the St. Louis Public Library.

The junior students are taking a course in "Games and plays" at the University of Pittsburgh, under the direction of Miss Corbin and Miss Connell of the Pittsburgh Playground Association.

Junior students are now sheltered on Monday mornings for practice work at the loan desks in the central lending division and in the branch libraries.

The following appointments have recently been made:

Miss Marion L. Audette, class of 1911, assistant, children's department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Miss Bolette Sontum, class of 1906, assistant, children's department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Miss Marie E. Wallace, class of 1911, assistant, children's department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

PRATT INSTITUTE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

Mr. Arthur L. Bailey, of Wilmington, lectured before the school, on January 30, on the problems of a medium-sized library. Mr. Arthur E. Bostwick lectured, on February 6, on the St. Louis Public Library, with lantern-slide pictures. The staff and training class of the Brooklyn Public Library were invited to hear their former librarian, and many availed themselves of the opportunity. On February 14, Miss Corinne Bacon talked of the means by which the Newark Public Library adapted itself to the needs of the community. Tea was served in the classroom after each of the lectures, and the students had the pleasure of discussing, informally, the points brought up in the lectures.

The lecturers for March will be Miss Louise G. Hinsdale, of the East Orange Public Library; Miss Mary E. Hall, of the Girls' High School Library, in Brooklyn; Mr. Henry E. Legler, of the Chicago Public Library; and Miss Sarah B. Askew, assistant librarian of New Jersey.

The annual luncheon of the Graduates' Association was held, January 31, at the Crescent Athletic Club, in Brooklyn. It was the first time the luncheon has been held in Brooklyn, and there was some apprehension that the attendance would suffer, but seventy-six were present, only five less than largest previous attendance, and the attractive surroundings made the occasion unusually festive. The speaker, Mr. Robert Haven Schauffler, paid a high tribute to the "creative librarian," whose sympathetic attitude encouraged the germination of ideas in the library user. Mr. Schauffler also recited the poem, "Scum of the earth" (*Atlantic Monthly*, November, 1911), which met with instant response. No worker among the foreign-born should fail to read it.

ALUMNI NOTES.

Miss Emily Turner (1898), formerly secretary to the Pratt Institute Library School, and more recently connected with the Indexers, has been appointed librarian of the Public Library of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Miss Adelaide F. Evans (1902), instructor in cataloging in the Western Reserve Library School, has been made head cataloger of the Louisville Public Library for a temporary term of eighteen months.

Miss Katharine de Witt Rathbun (1910) has accepted a position in the Aguilar branch of the New York Public Library.

Miss Ruth Townsend (1910) has been made head of the Far Rockaway branch of the Queens Borough Public Library.

Miss Alice S. Griswold (1911) has just accepted the librarianship of the Hartford County Medical Society. Miss Griswold had had seven years' experience in the Hartford Public Library before coming to the School, so is well qualified for the duties of her new position.

JOSEPHINE C. RATHBONE,
Vice-Director.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SCHOOL

On January 19, Miss Lutie E. Stearns gave an interesting address before the Syracuse Library Club on "The library as a social center of the community." The students of the Library school were guests. The following day she gave an interesting lecture at the university on "Some phases of western commission work."

The students, accompanied by an instructor of the Library school, are making a series of visits to local points of library interest. They have already visited the Syracuse Public Library, its Northside Branch and the Solvay Public Library. Beside libraries, they have been visiting several book publishers, periodical and newspaper plants.

The School will start on its extended annual library trip on April 5.

The faculty and staff celebrated Washington's Birthday by entertaining the School in the evening at the library. The reception committee was attired in colonial costume, and the decorations, refreshments and games were appropriate for the day.

ALUMNI.

Miss Lulu Saxton, '11, has been appointed assistant in the Department of Agriculture Library, Albany, N. Y.

MARY J. SIBLEY, Director.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SCHOOL

NEWS NOTES.

It is with regret that we announce to the alumni and friends of the Library School that Miss Adelaide Evans, instructor in cataloging, has severed her connection with the School, to accept the position of head of the cataloging department and instructor of apprentices in the Louisville Public Library, and will assume her new duties at once. Miss Evans has been connected with the School since its beginning, making a place for herself by showing zeal and constant interest in its growth and welfare. By rearrangement of the schedule, Miss Evans will be able before she leaves to complete her course in cataloging instruction, with the exception of four lectures, which will be given by the other members of the faculty. Miss Hiss, head of the catalog department of the Cleveland Public

Library, will assist Miss Grant in taking care of the spring work in cataloging practice.

ALUMNI NOTES.

Magdalene R. Newman, '05, cataloger in the Marietta College library, has resigned her position, to accept the position of library cataloger in the United States Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

BESSIE SARGEANT SMITH,
Acting Director.

LIBRARY SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The regular schedule of instruction has been carried on week by week in the school, lectures and practice work in the technical subjects occupying the greater part of the students' time during the first semester. The courses in Classification and book numbers, Elementary cataloging, Loan, American trade bibliography, and Library economy (including accession and withdrawal records, shelf-listing, serials, and inventory) were completed, and examinations set for each at the end of the semester. Although the necessary technical training occupied much of the students' time, representing the business side of library work, the courses in Reference and Book selection, embodying the literary and bookish side of the profession, were given their full share of attention. These studies extend throughout the year, but were given a mid-semester examination. The short course in Publishing Houses, really part of the book selection course, closed with an exhibition prepared by the students, showing the representative lines of the different houses. The lectures in Publicity were accompanied by many exhibitions, in way of demonstration, from the collections of the school, and by a special exhibition of Japanese prints arranged by the class. The lectures in parliamentary practice were included in the work of the first semester; also two visits were paid to the Legislative Reference Library, to learn of its organization and methods. Several lectures in the children's course, the major part of which is given in the spring quarter, were introduced at the end of the semester, to give a foundation for the work with the children that is part of the field practice experience.

The good fortune of the school in the number and power of the speakers who came from outside its walls has continued since the last report, with the following list:

November 17.—Miss Isabel Ely Lord, Being a librarian.

November 21.—Miss L. E. Stearns, Library spirit.

December 14.—Dr. Samuel McChord Crothers, The obviousness of Dickens.

January 5.—Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, The study of fiction.

January 6.—Mr. Frank K. Walter, Periodicals, The care of books.

January 8.—Mr. J. D. Phillips (head of the

education department of Houghton Mifflin Co.), The work of a publishing house.

January 20.—Dr. Thomas S. Adams, The evaluation of books in economics.

The first semester closed on January 30, with the usual examinations, and on February 1 two months of field practice began, marking the opening of the second semester. The students were assigned among various libraries of the state for different kinds of work, as follows:

Special cataloging.

Janesville.—February, Miss Hicks and Miss Pfeiffer; March, Miss Hicks and Miss Eckel.

Medford.—February, Miss Leaf; March, Miss Vander Haagen.

Madison, Sacred Heart Academy.—February and March, Miss Flower.

Menomonie, Stout Institute.—March, Miss Le Roy.

Monroe.—February, Miss Fawcett and Miss Eckel; March, Miss Fawcett, Miss Wykes, and Miss Balch.

Library organization.

Jefferson.—February, Miss Vander Haagen; March, Miss Robbins.

Field work.

Barron, Hayward, Hudson, New Richmond.—March, Miss Thiebaud.

Dodgeville and Fox Lake.—February, Miss Stetsen.

Mazomanie, Spring Green, Waterloo.—March, Miss Ronan.

Assistance for special work.

Cumberland.—February, Miss Hayward.

Edgerton.—February, Miss Castor.

Fond du Lac.—February, Miss Cook; March, Miss Leaf.

Lake Mills.—February, Miss Drake.

Madison, A. L. A. Booklist Office.—February and March, Miss Davis.

Marinette.—February, Miss Robbins.

Viroqua.—February, Miss Thiebaud; March, Miss Clausen.

Assistance in regular library work.

Ashland.—February, Miss Glazier; March, Miss Hayward.

Baraboo.—February, Miss Wykes; March, Miss Green.

Grand Rapids.—March, Miss Ives.

Madison, Free Library.—February, Miss Ives and Miss Boehnken; March, Miss Castor and Miss Heins; February and March, joint course students, Miss Dickerson, Miss Ely, and Miss Farquhar.

Madison, Historical Library.—February and March, Miss Richardson.

Madison, Legislative Reference Library.—February, Miss Ronan, Miss Potts, and Mr. Jillson; March, Miss Cook, Miss Potts, and Mr. Jillson.

Marinette.—March, Miss Pfeiffer.

Oshkosh.—February, Miss Green and Miss Clausen; March, Miss Liedloff and Miss Smith.

Reed-burg.—February, Miss Liedloff; March, Miss Glazier.

Stevens Point.—February, Miss Smith; March, Miss Stetson.

Tomah.—February, Miss Le Roy.

Watertown.—February, Miss Balch; March, Miss Boehnken.

Waupun.—February, Miss Heins; March, Miss Drake.

LIBRARY SCHOOL NOTES.

Miss Hazeltine, Miss McCollough, Miss Turvill and Miss Carpenter, of the School faculty, attended the conference of Library School Faculties in Chicago during the week of January 1. They also, with Miss Stearns, attended the League of Library Commissions, which held its meetings at the same time.

The organization of the class of 1912 was effected before the holiday vacation, with the election of the following officers: President, Miss Gladys Smith, Wallace, Idaho; vice-president, Mr. William E. Jillson, Crete, Nebraska; secretary, Miss Ruth P. Hayward, Beloit, Wisconsin; treasurer, Miss Ethel A. Robbins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Various merrymakings have broken the tedium of the daily work. Miss Carpenter and Miss McCollough entertained the faculty and students with a Christmas party at the home of the former, just previous to the holiday vacation. A Christmas tree, with presents and rhymes for all, made a very jolly evening.

The faculty gave a tea in the schoolrooms in honor of Miss Rathbone and Mr. Walter, on the occasion of their lectures to the school, thus affording the students the opportunity to meet them personally.

Dr. and Mrs. Thwaites entertained the school at their country home, Turvillwood, on the night of January 20. It was a jolly company, as was also the same group of people at sleigh ride, given by Miss Boehnken a week later.

SUMMER SESSION.

The usual summer session of the Library School is announced for the season of 1912, beginning June 24, continuing for six weeks, and closing August 3. The same entrance requirements hold as in other years—at least a high school education, and a regular library position, from which leave of absence is obtained to take the summer work.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Preceptor.

Reviews

FAXON, Frederick Winthrop. Literary annuals and gift books: a bibliography, with a descriptive introduction. Boston, Boston Book Co., 1912. 29+14 p. O.

There has, heretofore, been no adequate bibliography of these volumes so dear to the hearts of our grandmothers during that pe-

riod which Miss Agnes Repplier dubs the "happy half century." The time when to languish, to swoon, to be a "delicate female," was the ideal of lovely womanhood.

Mr. Faxon mentions two thousand of these volumes, most of which he has himself examined. The curious fact that certain American "gifts" had different titles, but the same contents, was commented upon in the July, 1902, issue of the *Bulletin* of the New York Public Library, showing that there were bold buccaneers among the publishers of the time, who swooped down upon the defenceless "annual," made its title-page walk the plank, gave it a new one bearing another name, and boldly sold it as a new work. Mr. Faxon has traced a number of these pirated editions and noted them for the protection of the collector of the interesting little volumes.

Many famous authors contributed to these books, and the best engravers of the time made the illustrations, so that annuals and gift books have a distinct value and interest which make them eagerly sought by many a bibliophile, who should be more than grateful to the compiler of this work not only for his excellent bibliography, but also for his illuminating and helpful introduction. The book ends with a useful chronological index, giving in order of years all dated titles listed.

G. E. L.

THE MANUAL OF LIBRARY ECONOMY. (Chap. 9, Library Legislation, by W. F. Yust; Chap. 12, Administration of a Public Library, by Arth. E. Bostwick; Chap. 15, Branch Libraries and Other Distributing Agencies, by Linda A. Eastman; Bookbinding, by Arthur L. Bailey.) A. L. A. Pub. Board, 1911. 12°, 15+9+18+23 p.

It is easy to appreciate the Scylla and Charybdis between which the various contributors to the "Manual of Library Economy" have been forced to steer. On the one hand, if the complete volume were to be kept of practicable size, there must be a continual effort at conciseness in the individual parts, a necessarily more or less bold presentation of essential facts and a ruthless excision of all but the most important exceptions to them. On the other hand, too great compactness would inevitably degenerate into a sort of syllabus form of treatment, an outlining of what might be said about the topic under discussion, without really saying it.

Mr. Bailey's "Bookbinding," the fullest of these four chapters, seems the richest, both in suggestion and information. The facts concerning "Materials"—"leathers" and "cloths," for example—are admirably summarized. The "Handbook" is professedly for the trained library worker, yet the section on so important subject as "sewing" might well have received more detailed treatment, and one would have been glad for more cost data. Regarding "mending" policy, Mr. Bailey has a clear par-

agraph; he has omitted any discussion of the methods thereof. Especially succinct is his summary of the "essentials of a good binding" and his discussion, pro and con, of library binderies.

Mr. Yust has a subject less burdened with details, but even more difficult of generalization. The writer recalls nowhere a more clear-cut statement of library progress in this country than his summary of the five stages of our library development: proprietary libraries; the school district library system; the allowance of general taxation for library purposes—*permissive*; the establishment of library commissions—*aggressive*; the *mandatory* library law of New Hampshire in 1895, so far not followed elsewhere.

Mr. Yust summarizes carefully questions of "tax rate and method of government" and "township and county library laws." He also outlines a model "library law," based, with additions and modifications, on the model laws suggested in 1897 by Frank C. Patten, a few years later by W. R. Eastman, and in 1909 by the committee of the A. L. A.

Miss Eastman had a difficult proposition: to present a subject that might well fill a book in fourteen pages. For this reason, the information she offers is in many cases disappointingly meager. Too often, for example, her topics have become mere lists of questions, which, however useful they may be in outlining the scope of her subject, give the reader little concrete help. For instance:

15. Messenger service and transportation, methods, comparative cost, and efficiency: (a) of delivery by boy on street-car, bicycle, motorcycle, wagon, or automobile; (b) packing of books, in paper-wrapped parcels, flexible telescope bags, boxes, chests, or trunks.

17. Supplies, building superintendence, repairs, janitorial work.—To what extent are these centralized? Methods.

What we have a right to ask of a "Handbook," it would seem, is *answers* to these questions: What, in the most carefully developed library systems, has been found to be the best practice regarding centralized janitorial work? Which libraries deliver by street car, bicycle, wagon, etc.? What does each method cost? Under what conditions is each most efficient? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method? Where Miss Eastman has answered her own questions the information given is so suggestive and "meaty" that the paucity of fact elsewhere is doubly disappointing.

Mr. Bostwick is invariably so lucid of statement and stimulating of thought that the chief criticism of his "Administration of a Public Library" is also that he should have written more! For Mr. Bostwick to dismiss library reports in a page and a half is almost cruel to the expectant readers; and boards of trustees that find they have received but two pages in a "Handbook of Library Economy" have some reason to feel themselves slighted.

To too many librarians the financial side of their duties is a stumbling-block. A more careful analysis of systems of vouchering and

expenditure in libraries of various sizes should be especially helpful. So far as he has gone, however, Mr. Bostwick has rendered himself almost inviolate to criticism; and, after all, excessive brevity is in these days a rare fault.

F. R.

PEARSON, Edmund Lester. *The Librarian at Play*. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co., 1911. 301 p., 12".

"Madam, a circulating library in a town is an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge. It blossoms through the year; and depend on it, Mrs. Malaprop, that they who are so fond of handling the leaves will long for the fruit at last." So said Sir Anthony, in Sheridan's play, condemning libraries, root and branch. Since that day, libraries have taken long strides forward in their nefarious work; but the nations still survive. Unashamed, librarians water the tree until it sends out new branches in every direction, and it is said that sometimes the gardeners take more delight in watching the growth of a single new leaf than in keeping the whole tree healthy. Now comes the pruner to lop off a few branches, and his pruning knife is satire.

It is a healthful sign when a profession reaches the point in its development where it needs and can stand a satirist. And so librarians welcome Mr. Pearson, an ex-librarian, who, at play, laughs at them in the pages of a book.

In the "Librarian at play" are collected fourteen sketches, twelve of which have already appeared in the library column of the *Boston Evening Transcript*, and two of which are here printed for the first time. The articles are not all devoted to making fun of the librarian—makers, collectors and readers of books receiving their just share of shafts. "The interest gauge" describes a newly invented instrument, like a thermometer, which, when inserted in the back of a book, registers just the degree of interest which the book excites in the reader. The tests prove, of course, that those who scoff at light literature are impostors. The same idea is exploited in "The deserted island test," in which a learned professor, cast upon an uninhabited island, with a hundred of the "best books," mostly classics, for his sole companions, finds himself longing for Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Dooley. "Their just reward" is an account of an excursion through the nether regions, in which the defacers of books, the stealers of rare plates, the seekers for family trees at any cost, and "literary bluffers," whose interest in books was never sincere, are each receiving their appropriate punishment.

Two articles, "The gardener's guide" and "Mulch," tell about books on gardening which contain everything but the simple details necessary to the amateur gardeners; and four papers are rather long drawn-out compilations of literary allusions. "Vanishing favorites," "A literary meet," "The literary zoo," and "A bookman's armory" are recommended

to teachers in high schools and library schools as a means of injecting interest into literary examinations. Suppose, for example, that a pupil were asked to name the books in which first appeared the characters which took part in the football match in the "Literary meet." Robin Hood as right end would be indelibly impressed on a boy's mind.

The remaining articles relate directly to librarians and their work. "By telephone," "The conversation room," and the "Crowded hour" amusingly show the trials which the librarian must undergo in trying to please everyone—or perhaps they show that librarians, in seeking to be progressive, sometimes merely fly off at a tangent; or perhaps they show that people are just people, inside of a library and out, at either end of a telephone wire, in the conversation room, or inquiring into the Indo-Iranian origins of the noun "Fuddy-dud."

Mention of the poem, "To a small library patron," and the paper headed "By-ways and hedges," has been reserved until the last, because they seem to be the best in the volume. Mr. Pearson has shown in the delightful book, "The unbelieving years," that he knows what a boy thinks and how he feels, and there is no doubt that he likes the small library patron, "uncombed, a bit unwashed, with freckled face." He strikes the same note of sincerity in "By-ways and hedges," in which two evenings in a settlement house library are described. In this sketch he has drawn real characters and given glimpses of life. It is a straightforward piece of writing.

FREDERICK C. HICKS.

Periodical and other Literature

Michigan Libraries for December contains the library legislation enacted by the Michigan Legislature in 1911.

Special Libraries for January also contains a list of societies of state, municipal and other government officials, compiled under the direction of H. H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer, Library of Congress.

ENGLISH.

The Librarian for February contains "Points to Dewey's 790 schedule" (Amusements), by Arthur J. Hawkes, a suggestive extension; a description of Ernest A. Savage's new book on "Old English libraries"; and a discussion on the "List of subject headings," prepared by the A. L. A.

FOREIGN.

De Boekzaal, Dec. 1, 1911, has an article by Annie C. Gebhard on "Studie-afdeeling van de Centrale Vereeniging voor openbare Leezalen en Bibliotheken."

Börsenblatt für den deutschen Buchhandel, Dec. 2, 1911, pp. 15194-5. Review of the first two volumes of a new library periodical, *Zeitschrift des Oesterreichischen Vereins für Bib-*

liothekswesen, which forms a new *Folge* of the *Mittheilungen* of this same association, and is edited by Dr. Friedrich Arnold Mayer, chief librarian, University of Vienna.

— Dec. 8, 1911, pp. 15525-6, has an extract from *Agram Tageblatt* on "Women as librarians." It notes that in 1909 the Prussian state had introduced examinations for female library assistants and opened positions bringing from 1650 to 3000 mark yearly, plus allowance for domicile. Since 1907 Germany has an association of women employed in libraries, with a membership of about 300; a free employment bureau is connected therewith.

La Cultura Popolare for January 16, 1912, has a continuation of the articles by C. Coradini on the problem of the school and juvenile delinquents; there is also a continuation of the article by Ethel Behrens on the public library movement in England, and the report of the proceedings of the Ligurian conference of popular libraries and related institutions.

Folksbiblioteksbladet, issued by the *Folksbindningsförbundet* and edited by Axel Hirsch, The fourth number of 1911 is accompanied by a slip bearing in French the words: "With this number, the *Folksbiblioteksbladet* ceases publication."

Gutenberg Gesellschaft, 10th annual report (Mainz, 1911), contains an interesting illustrated paper by Hans Koegler "On book illustrations in the first decennia of German printing."

Il Libro e la Stampa for January 31, 1912, has a review of the work by G. M. Mitelli on caricatures against the Turks, published at Bologna between 1680 and 1700, with reproductions of three prints; there is also a report of the proceedings of the ninth reunion of the *Società Bibliografica Italiana*, held at Rome on the 26-28 October, 1911.

De Panurge à Sancho Pança, by Émile Gebhart (Paris, 1911), has a chapter on "L'histoire d'une Bibliothèque espagnole," that of the Escorial.

Polybiblion: Revue bibliographique universelle, a monthly now in its 122d volume, appears in a *partie technique* and a *partie littéraire*. The first contains a classified bibliography and lists of contents of periodicals; the second contains classified reviews of new books.

Rivista delle biblioteche e degli archivi, October-November, 1911, is given over to an article on binding for libraries, by Giulio Coggiola.

Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen, January, contains as leading article a history of the library of the Foreign Office of the German Empire, by Johann Sass. The library is intended primarily for official use, but is also open to private persons bent on special research work.

Notes and News

BOOK REMOVAL.—The removal of the books from the old Springfield (Mass.) City Library to the new building was successfully accomplished by means of the improvised "funicular" railway in the short time of seven days.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION is compiling a "Monthly record of current educational publications," under the direction of John D. Wolcott, acting librarian. The first number has just come to hand. The design of the list is to mention the most important books, periodical articles and society publications in English on educational topics which have appeared since the compilation of the preceding monthly list; of foreign publications, titles will be selected of interest and value to American educators. Descriptive and explanatory notes will be added to entries wherever deemed necessary, and concise general presentations of appropriate bibliographical and literary topics are contemplated. Books, pamphlets, etc., intended for inclusion in this record should be sent to the library. This first number contains six pages of entries.

CATALOG CARDS.—The suggestion of Mr. W. C. Lane, of Harvard, that German agents purchasing for American libraries should furnish the printed cards of the Royal Library of Berlin with the books, is considered entirely practical in Berlin if publishers would sufficiently support the library and deliver the compulsory deposit copies promptly on the issuance of the work.

LIBRARY CLUBS.—It may be noted that in New York State there have been several recent changes, the Syracuse Club taking the place of the Central New York, the Northern New York that of the St. Lawrence, and the Hudson Valley, centering in Poughkeepsie, that of the Highland Club, while the Hudson River Club, centering at Albany, the Lake County and the Olean clubs are practically defunct, and the Buffalo and Mohawk Valley clubs have practically resolved themselves into staff meetings of the Buffalo and Utica libraries.

LIBRARY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.—As the University of Illinois, all state normal schools and other institutions have recently been placed under civil service, the Illinois Civil Service Commission will hold an examination for the position of library assistant on Saturday, April 6, 1912, at Chicago, Urbana, Springfield and such other points as may be found necessary. Positions under this title carry salaries from \$50 to \$100 per month. At state schools and institutions, other than the state university and normal schools, allowance will be made for maintenance, room and laundry. The examination will cover loan systems, reference, bibliography, order and binding work, accessioning and cataloging, with some questions included on library history and administration. It is possible that the commission

will waive the usual requirement of residence within the state. Inquiries and requests for applications should be addressed to W. R. Robinson, secretary of the commission, Springfield, Illinois.

READING OF LIBRARIANS.—The Louisville Public Library requires each staff member to read at least one book a month with special care, and to make a review of it in twenty-five to one hundred words for submission to the librarian and discussion critically at staff meetings. This note is intended for the general reader, and presents the important features, giving little of adverse criticism.

RESEARCH WORK.—Professor Franklin W. Hooper, Director of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, in an article, "Endowment of museums for research work," in emphasizing the importance of initial action, says: "As our libraries come to have larger and better-equipped buildings, increased public support and endowment, we may expect the spirit of research will not be less in the library than in the college or the university; and that spirit of research will have a beneficial effect on the communities served by the libraries, aiding the public to develop that spirit of discovery necessary to the larger life of the future."

East Orange (N. J.) newspapers have printed correspondence between Mayor Gregory and Col. Sterling, president of the library board, which indicates that the Mayor, in opposing library extension at the time of his election, knew nothing of library affairs; and he expresses the wish that some person, informed of the workings of the library, had then told him what he has since learned. At the beginning of his term he displaced the treasurer of the board and recently failed to reappoint Col. Sterling.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society managed to save about half of its insurance library of more than 10,000 volumes from the fire which destroyed the entire building in January. The library contained the whole history and science of life insurance, including the early Latin works, beginning with Santernae's little book written in 1552. It is said that the society will not attempt replacing the books destroyed, and of those remaining, some have been presented to the New York Public Library and to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Of the Lawyers' Club library, in the same building, nothing seems to have been saved.

More than four thousand books, bought from the famous Walford library in London, a few years ago, at a cost of \$100,000, were taken out of the ruins of the Equitable Building two weeks after the fire in solid blocks of ice. They were passed over to the Pfister Bookbinding Company, which has a contract to restore them. This work practically calls for the laundering of every leaf in every book.

When they were taken out of the ruins,

Mr. Pfister said he could have carried them away with ice tongs better than any other way. They will first have to be thawed out in a heated room. They then will be taken apart, about twenty-five leaves at a time, and washed in running water. The next process will be to rinse and press the water out of them. Then they will be hung on a line to dry. After drying thoroughly they will again be dipped in water and pressed out. They will be bound again in new leather, and will appear as new books. All the work is being done by hand. Many of the books, which were partly burned in the fire, cannot be restored. It will require more than two months to complete the work.

Hebrew Union College is shortly to have a new \$50,000 library building, presented by Isaac W. Bernheim.

Helena (Mont.) Public Library has succeeded in increasing the use of books by posting such signs as "Have you read 'The Melting Pot,' by Zangwill?" and "Ask to see our cook books."

Kansas City Public Library. In the February issue of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, the name given as librarian in the report of this library was that of the assistant librarian.

Library Bureau. A curious complication has arisen at Albany in connection with the new Education Building, where bidding on furnishings and equipment is to be denied to the Library Bureau. The Attorney-General states that the Governor has received letters from other firms protesting that employees of the State Education Department hold financial interest in the Bureau.

The New York School of Philanthropy Library, New York City, will hold, during the month of March, an exhibition of books and material on town planning, with special reference to housing and garden cities. In addition to a good working collection of practical books on these subjects, there will be on exhibition a collection of interesting drawings and other material, such as the Paris plans, plates from *Le Antichita Romane* of Piranesi, etc. The public is invited.

New York State Library.—Assemblyman Whitney introduced a bill providing \$590,000 for books for the library destroyed by fire last year, and \$200,000 for furniture for the new educational building. This bill passed the Assembly February 20.

ENGLISH.

Bodleian Library has issued its eleventh Staff Kalendar of 221 pages, in addition to the daily calendar containing the usual full instructions from office-boy duties to those of the librarian. An addition is the "Permanent daily routine."

FOREIGN.

LEIPZIG is considering a great *Zentralbibliothek*, with the aid of the Imperial government, the Kingdom of Saxony, the city and

the publishing trade, to contain a complete collection of German printing. This, it is suggested, could be accomplished by gift, purchase and adding a third copy through imperial legislation to the present compulsory deposit.

THE GERMAN government has requested the Union Pacific Railroad to send its literature relative to the Missouri Valley and intermountain section of the country for use in German libraries for reference purposes.

Brussels Institute.—At the seventeenth session of the Library Assistants' Association, held January 10, in London, about forty members were present, says *The Librarian*, at which a series of papers were read on "The foundation, methods and significance of the Brussels Institute of Bibliography," with reference to possible application of the principles to English use.

Royal Library, Hague, Holland. will have ready this year a new department of bibliography and documentation.

Strassburg University Library has issued a "Catalog of current periodicals," which is practically a list of periodicals of about 3500 items received by all libraries, societies, etc., in Strassburg.

Librarians

DORSEY, Miss Sallie, has been appointed state librarian of Maryland.

HOLMES, Herbert E., has been appointed by Gov. Plaisted state librarian of Maine. He is a practicing attorney of Lewiston and a graduate of Bowdoin College. The salary is \$1500.

KAVANAUGH, Frank K., has been reappointed state librarian of Kentucky for a term of two years, his nomination being proposed by the chairman of the joint Democratic caucus and seconded by the Republican leader.

PECK, Harriet R., B.L.S., New York, 1904, has been appointed librarian of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y.

SYKES, William J., formerly head of the English department in the Collegiate Institute, of Ottawa, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie Library of Ottawa, to succeed Mr. L. J. Burpee.

THWAITES, Reuben G., secretary and superintendent of the State Historical Society, of Wisconsin, was presented, Feb. 3, 1912, with the Cornplanter medal, a biennial award to scholars distinguished in Iroquois Indian research.

Gifts and Bequests

Arlington (Mass.). Robbins Memorial Library has received, through the will of Winfield Robbins, \$2500 for preserving and increasing the collection of paintings and other decorations.

Berkeley (Cal.) University L. Mrs. James L. de Fremery has donated a valuable collection of Dutch books to the University of California Library. The collection includes 500 volumes relating to Dutch history, law, heraldry and antiquities.

Hanover (N. H.). John Curtis F. P. L. Mrs. Emily Howe Hitchcock has left \$50,000 to the local public library.

Pine Island (Minn.) Frank Van Horn has bequeathed the entire residue of his estate to the village of Pine Island for the building and equipping of a public library. Three-fourths of the estate is to be used for a building and one-fourth for books. It is estimated Pine Island will receive nearly \$10,000.

Richmond (Va.). Thomas J. Todd has indicated his willingness to give \$15,000 towards the establishment of a public library.

Toronto (Can.) Public Library has received the J. Ross Robertson collection of 558 paintings, prints and sketches of geographical and historical importance.

Library Reports

Boston (Mass.) Medical L. John W. Farlow, lbn. (36th rpt.—year ending Nov. 14, 1911.) Accessions 2920 volumes, 7804 pamphlets; total number 71,810 volumes, 52,477 pamphlets. Receipts \$23,755.71; expenditures \$23,036.74 (salaries \$7036.89; books \$2678.30; periodicals \$2198.71).

El Paso (Tex.) P. L. Maud Durlin, lbn. (Year 1911.) Total number of volumes 8846. Circulation 53,718. Total number of children's books 1062. Circulation 11,490. Registration 1136; total number of borrowers 6882. The library is to have a separate reference room for the government publications in the basement. The documents are classified, and subject cards made for the catalog. The shelves in the regular stack room were very much crowded, and there was not room to use the documents as they should be used.

Hackensack, N. J., Johnson P. L. Mary Boggan, lbn. (11th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1911.) Books added 1275; total 15,103. New registration 561; total 2287. Books rebound 640. Reading and reference room attendance 15,270. Receipts \$5607.64; expenditures \$5503.48 (salaries \$2928; fuel \$263.20; lighting \$293.90; rebinding \$322.60).

Long Beach (Cal.) P. L. Victoria Ellis, lbn. (Rpt.—year ending June 30, 1911.) Number of books in library 20,647. Circulation, home use, 200,553 (fiction 108,200), a gain of 28,655. Receipts from local tax \$18,824.42.

Massachusetts State L. Charles F. D. Belden, lbn. (Rpt.—year ending Nov. 30, 1911.) Accessions 5226 volumes, 7199 pamphlets. Expenditures for books, periodicals, etc., \$6978.28; binding \$1307.13. The general court card catalog, as begun by Mr. Tillinghast, was

bought for \$5000, including letter files with regard to the catalog. The scope of the library is stated: (1) statutes and reports, (2) public records, (3) New England, and (4) miscellaneous, as standard reference books of special classes of which a list is given. Book lists are compiled covering these subjects. The current events index, started in 1892, now contains about 230,000 cards. A card index has also been started of the messages and vetoes of Massachusetts Governors. By June 1, 1912, it is hoped to have ready for the press the catalog of session laws, a very brief sketch of the governmental history of each jurisdiction and a list with dates of all sessions of state legislatures, with a bibliographic account of each volume of session laws.

New York (N. Y.) P. L. Dr. J. S. Billings, director. (Rpt.—year 1911.) For the entire year the number of readers was 246,950, consulting 911,891 volumes. Since the opening of the new building in May to Dec. 31, 1911, 173,180 readers, consulting 614,200 books. There were 1,658,376 visitors during the year, and 1,582,879 people, including readers, visited the new home. In the circulating department, the volumes owned increased to 877,672; registrations during the year were 316,908, and volumes circulated 7,914,882 for home use, an increase of 407,006 over 1910. "There is no other library in the world which reaches so many readers, and perhaps there is no other institution in the city which is used by so many persons." Special mention is made of the great cost of maintenance, which will be upwards of \$480,000 for 1912; \$1,114,179.95 was expended in 1911, \$419,712.70 for the reference department and \$604,467.25 for the circulation department. In the reference department, \$80,254.57, or 19 per cent., went for books, periodicals and binding; \$234,962.42, or 56 per cent., for salaries; \$104,495.71, or 25 per cent., for all other purposes. In the circulation department, \$185,667.18, or 26 per cent., went for books, periodicals and binding; \$363,827.62, or 52 per cent., for salaries; \$144,972.45, or 21 per cent., for all other purposes. There are 927 persons on the staff of the library, 360 in the reference department, 567 in the circulation department. In the reference, the number of librarians, assistants, etc., was 216; engineers, janitors, pages, etc., 141; in the circulation, 472 and 95, respectively. The number of branches remain at 40. 41,134 volumes, 55,008 pamphlets were received; 27,989 volumes and 1,520 pamphlets accessioned. Total volumes available for readers 839,867, pamphlets 302,274; with the circulation department's 877,672 volumes and pamphlets, this makes a total of 2,019,813 pieces in the entire system. Total prints 73,100; maps 7000, 59,053 volumes, 42,566 pamphlets and 72 maps were cataloged. The public catalog now contains 1,716,191 cards; the official 819,533, and the catalogs in special rooms 1,085,006, making net total 3,621,630; 1852 periodicals were indexed number by number, for which 18,647 cards or printed slips were

made. Periodicals currently received 6927 titles, 167,259 pieces. 64,612 readers consulted 305,175 current periodicals. Printing office set 57,969 titles, 501,124 cards being run off; 2,922,224 stationery forms and 147,650 single numbers of publications were printed.

The report covers 145 pages, of which 42 pages are given to a detailed statistical appendix. The new building opened in May, 1911, was, of course, the most important event of the year, and the history, development and opening ceremonies are given. The moving of over a million books from two buildings two miles distant was accomplished in 56 working days, which is described in full under the work of the Reference department. The newly formed division of Art and Prints has proven its usefulness. The Newspaper room department gives a list of newspapers received. 6927 current periodicals are now received by the library, 161 daily, 902 weekly, 73 semi-annually, 796 annually, 1433 irregularly; 10,562 annual publications are received by the Periodicals division by gift. The Public Documents division notes that "there is probably no one body of publications in the library which yields material for which there is such a steady current demand as does the file of consular reports . . . these reports note the most recent agricultural, industrial, financial, etc., progress of the locality reported." In purchasing, the library leaves certain fields, as theology, medicine, etc., to the care of the local special libraries. The Technology division sent requests to a large number of industrial firms here and abroad for their recent catalogs, etc., material worthy of permanent preservation being fully cataloged, that of ephemeral nature arranged alphabetically by firm name and subject indexed. In the Circulation department, a system of union registration was inaugurated, enabling applicants to use their cards at any of the branches. Duplicates of applications received at branches are filed in the central office, preventing one person from holding more than one card. As a rule, books not in circulation for one year are removed from the branch shelves for the central reserve collection. In the central children's reading room in the new building, the question is often asked, "Isn't this the first library for children in the world?" indicating the need of this center of information of children's work in the forty branches. Adults have been admitted on equal terms with the children in use of books and personal attention. An exhibition of the library's activities in behalf of the blind was given. The Training Class was discontinued with the establishment of the library school, and a class of probationers formed under the school's supervision. The committee on book selection examined 5400 new titles sent on approval, of which 4100 were purchased. The average cost per volume for the circulation branches was \$.94; 140,094 volumes were bought in 1911 by the Book Order Office. 1734 current mag-

azines were bound at a cost of \$1.05. There were reported missing at branch inventories 8361 volumes. 1241 were recovered after a previous report of loss, the net loss being, therefore, 7120, an increase of 1820 over 1910. The loss per 100,000 circulation was 89. From many libraries specimen books showing methods of identification marks were obtained. Public lectures were given in the branches under the direction of the Board of Education. Dr. John S. Billings, Jr., was appointed medical officer in 1911, and examines staff members and candidates for positions and supervises the sanitary arrangements of the system.

North Adams (Mass.) P. L. Mabel Temple, lbn. (28th rpt.—year ending Nov. 30, 1911.) Books added 1536; total number of volumes 33,126. Home use 97,615. New registrations 475; total registrations 7150. Receipts \$7000; expenses \$6990.65 (salaries \$3064.85; books \$1558.97; binding \$444.69; heat \$458.85).

Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Adriance Memorial L. John C. Sickley, lbn. (Rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1911.) Additions 2146; total at schools and library 113,371. Circulation 103,050 (fiction 54,185). New registrations 1071 and 620 in the children's department. Total registration 5539. Receipts \$12,355; expenditures \$11,450.07 (salaries \$5790; fuel \$403; books \$2329.45; binding \$533.05).

Providence (R. I.) Athenaeum L. Grace F. Leonard, lbn. (76th rpt.—year 1910-11.) Accessions 2761; total number 76,576. Circulation 62,927. Receipts \$16,266.52; expenditures \$15,739.42 (salaries \$5138.01; books \$2600.56; binding \$677.03).

The salient events of the year have been the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the institution and the adoption by the board, in July, of plans for an addition to the building. The report is supplemented by a thirty-nine-page history of the growth of the Athenaeum from 1753 to 1911, by Joseph LeRoy Harrison, which has also been reprinted in separate pamphlet form.

Scranton (Pa.) P. L. Henry J. Carr, lbn. (21st rpt.—1911.) Books added by purchase 3441; total number of volumes 67,156. Volumes bound 3287, at a cost of \$1150.63; amount paid for books, \$3825.44. Total library circulation 129,269; borrowers registered 2610, new; 2302 re-registered; total 4912. Borrowers' cards in force 10,549. Receipts \$22,919.87. Expenses \$19,774.50 (salaries \$7497.95; heating and lighting \$1139.49).

Toronto (Can.) P. L. George H. Locke, lbn. (Rpt.—year 1911.) Total number of books issued for home use 474,017. Total registrations 20,000. In the reference department the total number of books is 219,092; in the branches 15,000. This shows a decided growth in the scope of the library as compared with other years, the increase in fiction being less than 10 per cent.

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INSECTS. Bibliographia coleopterologica. Berlin, W. 15, Germany, W. Junk, '12. 132 p. 8°, cl.

LAWYERS. New York Society Library. A selected list of lawyers who have been members of the Society Library, 1754-1912, with portraits. New York, New York Soc. L., 109 University place, '12. Unpaged, 16°, pap.

MEMORIAL DAY. Rice, O. S., comp. Wisconsin Memorial Day Annual, 1912. Madison, Wis., C. P. Cary, State Superintendent, '12. 153 p. 8°, pap.

MUSIC. Somerville (Mass.) P. L. Music scores and literature in the public library. City of Somerville, Mass., Somerville P. L., '11. 73 p. 12°, pap., 5 c.

PAINTERS AND PAINTING. Public Library of the District of Columbia. Reference list No. 9. History of painting; a selected list prepared to accompany a course of lectures. Wash., D. C., Pub. Lib., '11. 15 p. 24°.

POULTRY. Worcester Public Library Bulletin, February, 1912. pp. 31-33.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. White, H.: Alex., D.D. Southern Presbyterian leaders; with portrait illustrations. N. Y., Neale, '11. c. 476 p. (7 p. bibl.) O. \$3 n.

TENEMENT HOUSE. Pittsburgh, Carnegie L. Monthly Bulletin, December, 1911. List of books and periodical articles in the library on the housing problem, '11. 137 p.

WOMAN. Wilmington Inst. Free L. Books for women. Wilmington, Del., Wilmington Inst., '12. 11 p. 12°.

Communication

AN INTERNATIONAL DIFFICULTY, THE EVER-LASTING POST-CARD

DEC. 5, 1911.

Editor Library Journal:

From the letter-press I am sending you under separate cover it will be seen that this institution issues from time to time scientific literature, mostly of a technological character. Recently an important and costly work, octavo quarto, comprising 458 pp. and 410 illustrations, was completed, and exchange copies have been forwarded (upon application) to kindred institutions, universities and scientific societies the world over, and duly and courteously acknowledged. And now I come to the crux of my letter, viz.: the system in vogue in libraries in general—the card system.

A number of libraries having seen or heard of this work have made a request for a copy on a formally printed one-cent post-card, upon which deficient postage has had to be paid here. At first these were passed over and the request granted, the method of application being looked upon as a slip, but to round the joke off, the acknowledgments were also received on a one-cent post-card with deficient postage again.

The last mail has brought another batch of applications, in every case the libraries' request were on one-cent post-cards; still deficient postage.

If I may be permitted to say so, I think it is carrying the card system to extremes, when library authorities on a one-cent post-card ask for and expect to receive, without any exchange whatever, say a \$20 book.

I know from experience that our American cousins are most generous in their distribution of scientific and other literature, and their generosity leaves nothing to be desired, and yet whilst individuals and institutions make their desiderata known and acknowledged on a letter, most libraries resort to a one-cent post-card.

R. T. BAKER, Curator,
Technological Museum, Sydney, N. S. W.

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MARCH

7-8. League of Lib. Commissions, Eastern section, Atlantic City.

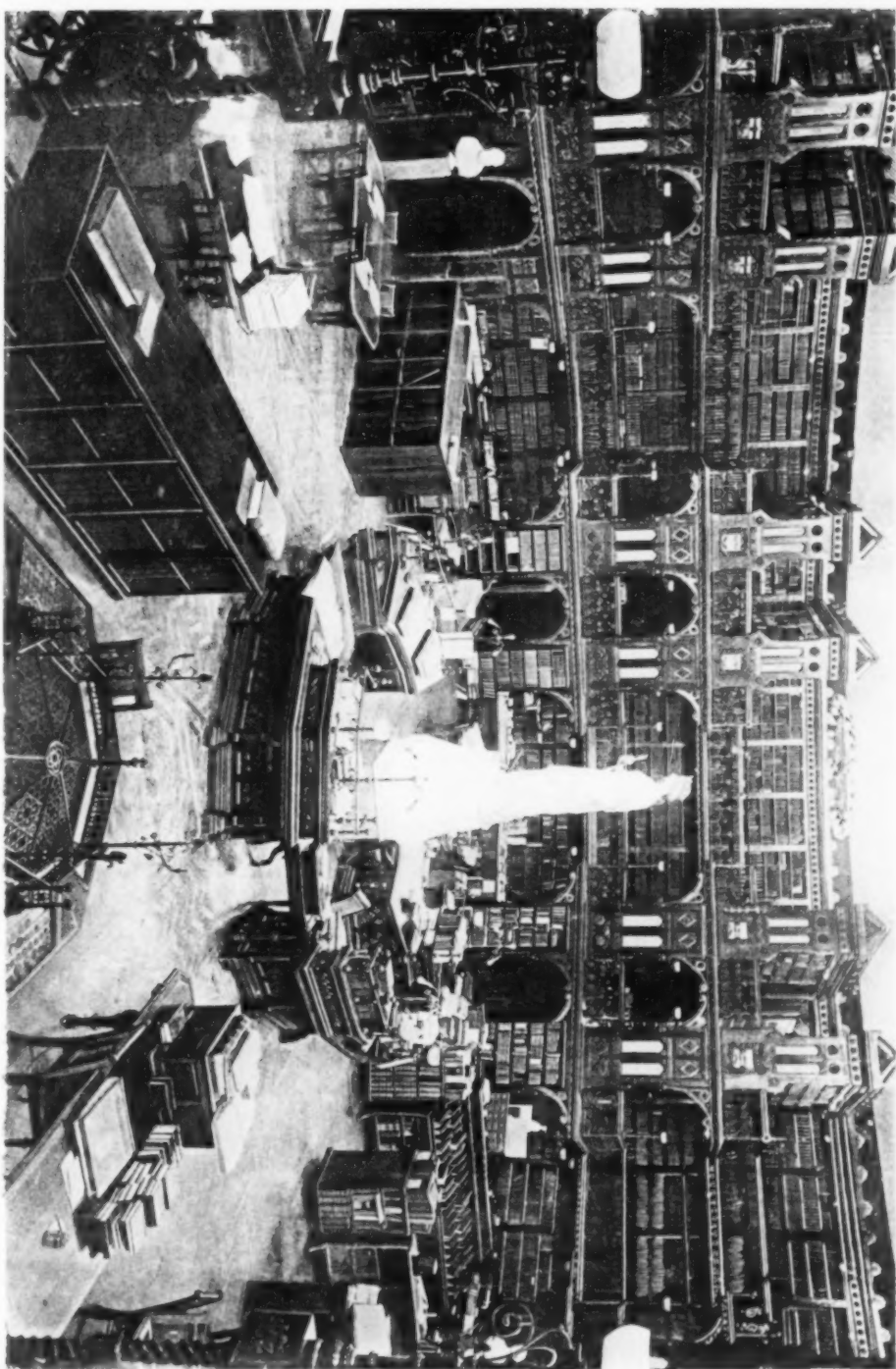
8-9. Pa. L. C. and N. J. L. A. bi-state annual meeting, Atlantic City.

13. N. Y. L. C., Union Theological Seminary, 3 P.M.

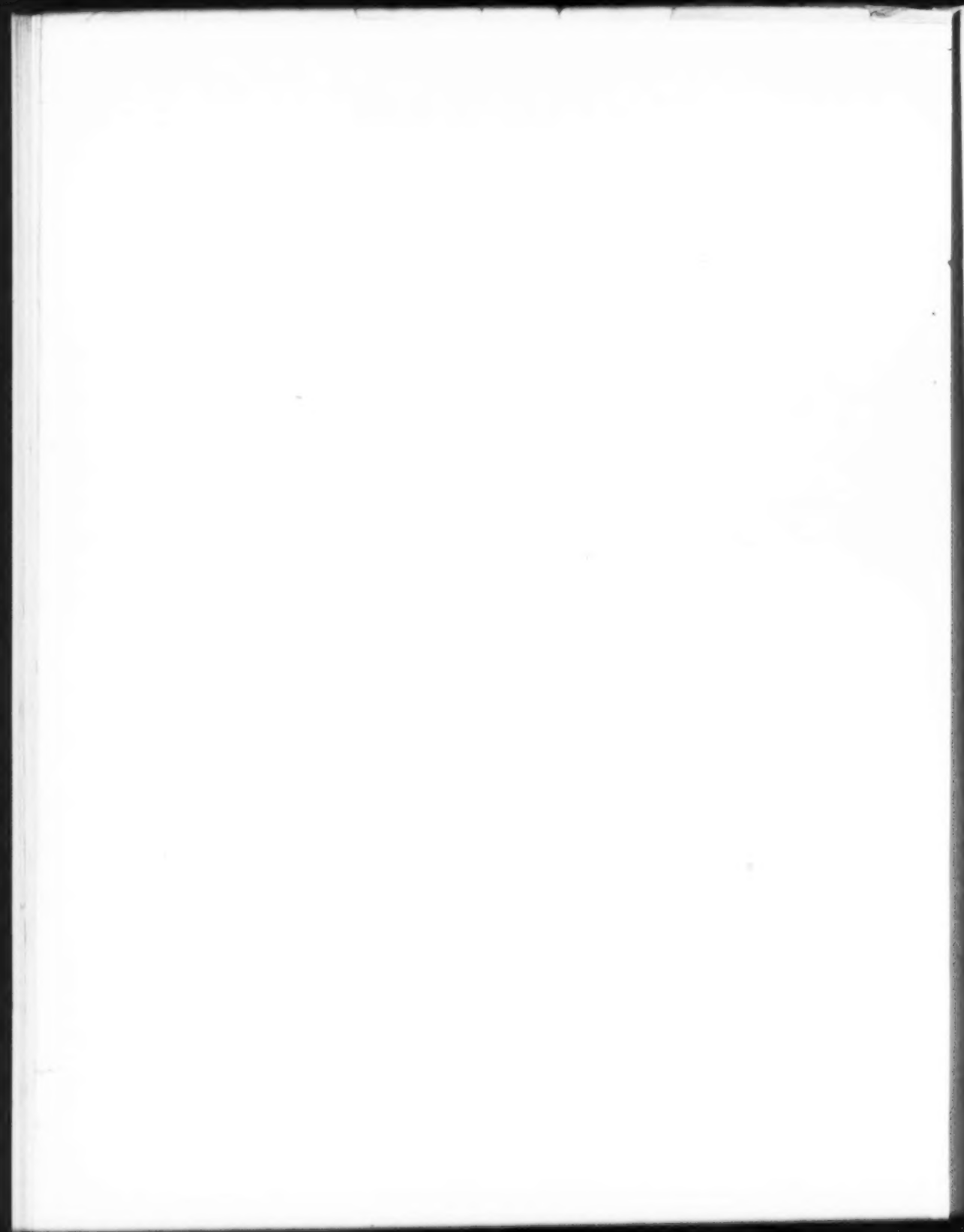
Je.?-Jl.?. A. L. A. Conference, Ottawa.

S. 1-7. L. A. U. K., Liverpool.

S. 23-28. N. Y. L. A. "Library week," Niagara Falls.



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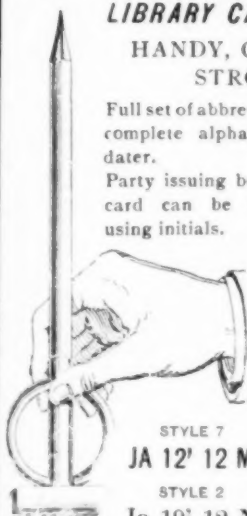
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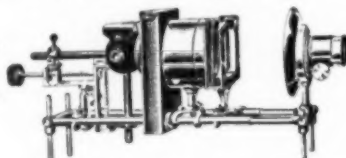
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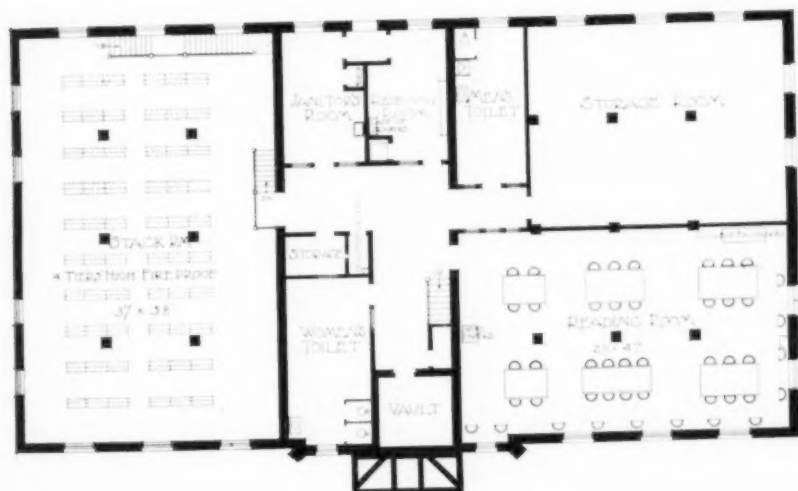
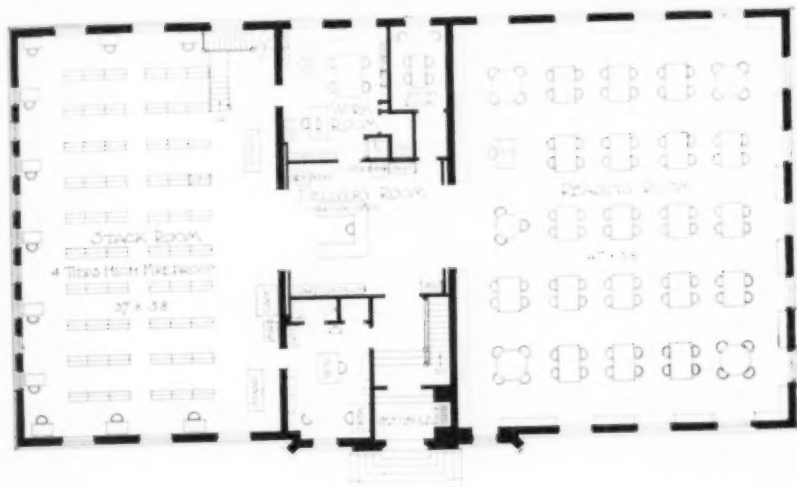
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